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SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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REASONS FOR FLIGHT OF CHITTAGONG TRIBALS GIVEN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Oct 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] New Delhi, September 30--The unabated influx of tribals from the Chittagong hill tracts into Tripura is a clear indication that the "hawks" are to the fore again in Bangladesh.

It is an attempt to nullify the recent Indo-Bangladesh agreement to defuse tension.

The unexpected twists and turns that Dacca's policies are taking are the result of an intense power struggle now going on in the ruling group. For quite some time, the "doves" remained in background, but were able to stage a come-back, working upon the uncertainties of the future, and encouraged a new process of improving relations with India.

But the ascendancy of the "doves," whose chief exponent is the foreign minister, Mr. Shamsul Haq, appears to have been shortlived. The pendulum is again on its backward swing. That the army has taken over the operations against the tribals is an indication that the recently concluded agreement with India had not been to its liking and it has taken the first opportunity to strike back.

Since the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman, the "hawks" have been slowly but surely entrenching themselves in power, eliminating the known "freedom fighters"--from the army and all governmental spheres. The Prime Minister, Shah Azizur Rahman, became the chief spokesman of the regime.

The upshot of this development was that there was an increase in contacts with Pakistan and proposals were mooted for the two countries entering into several bilateral agreements, including Dacca giving up its claims to a share in the assets of united Pakistan. It was apprehended that the process could culminate in a sort of defence arrangement with Pakistan.

The development did not give any comfort to the moderates who saw in it the possibility of an increase in tension in the sub-continent.

The coming Presidential election was a factor which momentarily helped the "doves" to assert themselves and come to the fore. The army continues to be unsure of the election result, acutely conscious of its isolation and unpopularity. It is distrustful of the bureaucracy which has vowed to see that the men in uniform remain

in the barracks. And the people have expressed themselves in various ways that they have seen enough of army rule.

Apparently wanting not to queer the pitch for the politicians in seeing its candidate through in the election by its over presence, the army chose to recede to the background for the time being. But it was taken by surprise by the manner in which the moderates hurriedly went to the extent of concluding an agreement with India. It was something it had not bargained for.

The volume and composition of the tribal influx into Tripura clearly shows that the armed forces are in a desperate mood. There has been a qualitative change from the small trickle of refugees crossing the border three months ago to the present flood of people fleeing from army atrocities. Unlike what has been going on in the Chittagong hill tracts during May-June, the present army action against the tribals appears to be non-discriminatory.

A slow influx of tribal migrants into India from the Chittagong hill tracts was to be expected following the plan drawn up by the former Bangladesh president, Mr. Ziaur Rahman, to settle 20,000 families from each Bangladesh district on the fertile land along the Karnafuli. The plan was first sought to be put into effect in 1978. The result was an influx of chakma tribals into the Indian border states of Tripura and Mizoram.

The reaction was not what the Bangladesh government had expected. A storm of protest was raised by the neighbouring Buddhist countries because the chakmas are by and large Buddhists. The world Buddhist organisations organised relief for the uprooted people on a big scale. The result was that the Zia plan had to be suspended.

In May-June this year, when the Bangladesh government tried to put the plan into operation, it was more careful and selective. The chakma villages were not touched. Groups of plains people supported by armymen from behind, went round the village in the Matiranga-Ramgarh area inhabited by Tripura's tribesmen who claim themselves to be Hindus. The bulk of the refugees during that period was from this tribe. About 3,500 tribals had crossed into India during these two months.

CSO: 4220/7150

LOK SABHA BYELECTIONS FOR LATE NOVEMBER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 5--By-elections to fill three vacant seats in the Lok Sabha from three States and 22 Assembly seats in 10 States and one Union Territory are likely to be held in the last week of November, it was learnt here today.

"We are in the process of consultation with the Chief Electoral Officers of the States and Union Territory concerned," an Election Commission official said. It is, however, understood that a specific date has also been suggested to most of these: November 29.

A week earlier, on November 22, the repoll in the Garhwal parliamentary constituency is to be held, as already notified.

The separation of the rest of the by-elections from the Garhwal repoll seems significant. The Election Commission evidently wants no distraction at the time of that repoll. To questions on the steps likely to be taken to prevent induction of police forces from outside, as happened during the poll on June 14, commission officials said "we will take all precautions."

There is no intension as yet to fill the vacancies, either in the Lok Sabha or in the local Assembly, in four States: Assam (with 12 vacancies in the Lok Sabha and seven in the State Assembly), Meghalaya (one in the Lok Sabha and two in the Assembly), Nagaland (two in the Assembly), and Himachal Pradesh (two in the Assembly).

The reason in respect of Assam and Meghalaya is that the foreign nationals issue in both States has yet to be settled and the situation in the area is yet to return to normal.

In Nagaland, since a general election to the Assembly is due in November next year, the State Government does not seem to be in favour of any by-election now. For the same reason, there is to be no by-election in Himachal Pradesh--the general election to the State Assembly there is due before June next year.

The Lok Sabha seats for which by-elections are to be held in November (besides the repoll in Garhwal) are: Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, Nandurbar in Maharashtra, and Bayana in Rajasthan.

The Bayana seat was won by Mr Jagannath Pahadia in the January 1980 elections. He gave up that seat on December 3 last year, following his shift to Rajasthan as Chief Minister, a position which he no longer holds.

The States where by-elections are to be held to fill vacant Assembly seats are: Andhra Pradesh (three), Bihar (three), Gujarat (three), Madhya Pradesh (one), Maharashtra (one), Manipur (one), Punjab (one), Tamil Nadu (one), Tripura (three) and Uttar Pradesh (one).

In the Assembly of the Union Territory of Mizoram, there are four vacancies. By-elections to fill these are likely to be held on November 30.

CSO: 4220/7185

MEGHALAYA COALITION PLANNING NEW PARTY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Sep 81 p 10

[Text] Shillong, September 28--The ruling United Meghalaya Parliamentary Democratic Forum, comprising the Congress (I) and three regional parties, is in "sound health" despite persistent rumours regarding rift or differences among its constituents, according to the former Meghalaya chief minister, Mr. B. B. Lyngdoh.

Speaking to newsmen yesterday, he denied reports that the partnership formed in May, 1979, had developed strains. Referring to the reported misgivings of the regional parties about the Congress (I) manoeuvres for forming a one-party government, Mr. Lyngdoh said: "Everything is smooth." He added that newsmen always looked for "edges on a smooth surface."

On the proposed "broad-based" political party, he said, the coalition partners had already ratified the proposal, and the party would be formed soon. He added the Congress (I) in the state would have to join the new party.

It may be recalled that, when the ruling forum was constituted, its constituents--the Congress (I), the APHLC (Lyngdoh faction), the Hill State People's Democratic Party and the Jaintia National Union--decided to form a broad-based political party, that would support Congress (I) policies on national affairs. The objective was to end political instability that had become pronounced after the assembly elections in 1978.

CSO: 4220/7141

U.S. SAID TO HAVE 'MISCONCEPTIONS' ABOUT INDIA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Oct 81 p 4

[Article by K. Subrahmanyam]

[Text] The Reagan administration's policies towards the Indian sub-continent, especially in respect of arms supplies to Pakistan, have to be viewed against the backdrop of its pursuit of a policy of neo-containment vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. The Reaganites argue that Pakistan is willing to stand up and be counted against the Soviet Union on both the Afghanistan issue and the problems in the Gulf, while India is not. Hence the Pakistanis deserve to be rewarded and if, in the process, India gets hurt, well, that is the price India must pay for leaning towards the Soviet Union.

When the officials of the Reagan administration are confronted with Mr. Agha Shahi's speech at the Lahore seminar on June 30 in which he had dismissed the danger of a Soviet attack on Pakistan, declared that Islamabad was acquiring arms against other threats and added that non-aligned Pakistan would neither give bases to the U.S. nor act as a conduit for weapons to the Afghan rebels, it is waved aside with a shrug. They say Mr. Agha Shahi does not count for much in policy making in Pakistan and the U.S. administration deals directly with the generals with whom it has a good understanding. Mr. Agha Shahi's pronouncements, in the American view, are part of a public relations exercise.

There are sufficient grounds to believe that this view of the U.S. officials is well founded. First, the Egyptian President, Mr. Anwar Sadat, has confirmed that from December 1979 onwards the CIA has been regularly lifting the Soviet arms supplied to Egypt during the years before 1972 to be passed on to Afghan rebels across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Secondly, there are indications that notwithstanding Mr. Agha Shahi's loud protestations of non-alignment, there have been talks between U.S. and Pakistani military establishments on the U.S. obtaining bases and other military facilities in Pakistan.

Risks

Lastly, Mr. Carl Bernstein recently published an article reporting that in General Zia-ul-Haq's belief it would be "well within the limits of the Soviet Union's tolerance" if up to two planeloads of arms were passed across the Pak-Afghan border to Afghan insurgents.

American officials are asked sometimes about the risks of the U.S. getting too closely identified with the military regime in Pakistan, as it did with the Shah of Iran, and the consequent danger that in the event of a discontinuous change in Pakistan, the U.S. might get totally alienated from that country, giving the Soviet Union an excellent opportunity to extend its influence there. Their reply is that all policies have some risks inherent in them.

Even so, the U.S. officials are aware of the possibility of Gen. Zia being replaced. This should explain why the U.S. military establishment is developing very broad-based contacts with the entire Pakistani military establishment so that any abrupt change at the top does not affect the relationship between the two countries.

The possibility of Pakistan People's Party gaining power in the next three to five years is dismissed as negligible by U.S. officials who also consider it unrealistic to plan policy for a period beyond the foreseeable period of three to five years.

U.S. officials accept that Pakistan is making strenuous efforts to reach nuclear weapon capability. But they argue that through the renewed military relationship they are attempting to develop a structure in Pakistan that will compel the Pakistani rulers to weigh carefully the costs and benefits of carrying out a nuclear test and building up a nuclear arsenal. They feel that this attempt is better than the Carter policy of invoking Symington amendment which has proved counter-productive in Pakistan's case.

Pakistan's manifest anxiety and extraordinary pressure for the speedy delivery of some F-16s at least can mean, to say the least, that it wishes to acquire a reliable delivery system before carrying out a nuclear test. When this is brought up in conversations with U.S. officials they tend to dismiss the possibility. They say that once the test takes place and the U.S. stops supply of spares, within a few months Pakistan will not be able to fly F-16s. But some of the specialists in U.S. academic research institutions are not so categorical on this score. They point out that the Iranians were able to fly some F-14s, by cannibalising these aircraft, long after the U.S. had stopped supply of spares.

Great

In any case, even if the officials' claim is correct, all it means is that India's vulnerability to a Pakistani nuclear strike or nuclear blackmail will be great during the few months immediately following a Pakistani nuclear test when the F-16s in Pakistan's possession will still be operational.

The U.S. officials assert that Saudis who have considerable influence on Pakistan are fully aware of the impact that a Pakistani bomb will have on the regional stability and they are likely therefore to restrain Pakistan. But the academics underscore the Islamic character of the Pakistani nuclear effort and the widespread belief that Saudi Arabia is financing it. When confronted with contradiction, the standard reply of the Reaganites is that all policies have risks and that the U.S. must support Pakistan because it cannot allow the Soviet Union to get away with its intervention in Afghanistan.

In the U.S. today there is an enormous amount of misinformation about India and its policies, especially about its relationship with the Soviet Union. Most of the people who have moved into the Reagan administration are specialists in strategic weaponry and East-West relations and have very little knowledge about the developing world. Some of those who were familiar with south Asia have gone out of this administration.

One widespread misconception is that the Indo-Soviet arms deal of May 1980 was concluded at the initiative of Mrs. Gandhi, that it confirmed her leanings towards the Soviet Union and that it was a quid pro quo for India's silence on Afghanistan. The explanation that the deal was initiated when Mr. Morarji Desai was Prime Minister and Mr. Jagjivan Ram defence minister, that it was negotiated in detail during Mr. Charan Singh's caretaker regime and that it was all ready for signature except for some marginal adjustments in terms of credit was received with great deal of surprise and some scepticism.

That President Sanjiva Reddy in his banquet speech told President Brezhnev, then on a visit to New Delhi, that continued stay of foreign troops in another country was unacceptable to India was news to American audiences.

While many had not heard of Mr. Narasimha Rao's Karachi speech declaring that India had a vested interest in the permanency and separateness of Pakistan, there were a few who felt that the Narasimha Rao-Agha Shahi joint declaration, recognising the need for Pakistan to modernise its forces, had misled the U.S. administration into believing that the supply of F-16s to Pakistan was within India's tolerance limit.

Reservations

It had to be explained to them that at that stage reports emanating from Washington indicated that only F-5G aircraft or at the most derated F-16/79 aircraft (not F-16s with fully powered engines) would be supplied to Pakistan.

Another area of misinformation is that India has reservations about buying arms from the United States. American officials pointed out that India was not accepting the Tow anti-tank missiles and medium guns offered to it months back. When told about the unacceptable conditions, such as denial of manufacturing licence, unduly long delivery period and the U.S. right to cancel the contract at any time, American officials replied that these were standard conditions governing supplies to all nations that were not militarily allied.

As for the possibility of this country getting arms from the U.S. on terms that would be acceptable, some U.S. officials said that this would not happen as the Congress will not agree. Some felt that the issue had not been looked in that light. One disinterested official said that India was not likely to get arms on terms and conditions on which she gets them from the Soviet Union from any other source and that if he were an Indian, he would do exactly what India had been doing.

There is similar disinformation about the facilities India offers to Soviet ships and the nature, scope and extent of Indo-Soviet defence deals. Information on

Soviet technical assistance to India in the basic industries sector is surprisingly scanty.

In these circumstances it will be gross over-optimism to expect that the Indian point of view can be put across and have some impact on the U.S. administration at this stage. However, taking a long view, it is necessary to keep up a broad-based dialogue with the U.S. press, legislators and academics. Among them there is an increasing awareness that their earlier assessments of China's power and potential were vastly exaggerated and they may have overestimated China and underestimated India. A patient and sustained dialogue is in the long-term interests of both countries in spite of present difficulties in establishing communication.

CSO: 4220/7183

PENTAGON ASSESSMENT OF INDO-SOVIET TIES REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Oct 81 p 9

[Article by N. Ram]

[Text] Washington, Oct. 4--An official Pentagon document on Soviet military might identifies India as an area of "major concentration" for Soviet and East European military advisors, a "major Soviet arms client," and a signer, along with Vietnam of pacts with Moscow before the launching of "invasions of Pakistan and Kampuchea, respectively."

The declassified version of the document--bearing the title "Soviet military power"--introduces itself as a distillation of briefings provided to NATO Ministers of Defence on the theme of "the totality of the Soviet military build-up." Mr. Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. Secretary of Defence, ordered the "factual portrayal" to be prepared and published for circulation to every coffee table in this country, and also for readers overseas.

Obvious Aim

While containing some interesting information and assessments, the basic purpose of the document is obvious. Carefully leaving out any comparison with the U.S. military build-up and "projection of power" in all the continents, it carries the following message (in the words of Mr. Weinberger): "There is nothing hypothetical about the Soviet military machine. Its expansion, modernisation, and contribution to projection of power beyond Soviet boundaries are obvious... For the past quarter century, we have witnessed the continuing growth of Soviet military power at a pace that shows no signs of slackening in the future."

It is a message rationalising and bolstering the essential Reaganite posture that Congress and the American people, should not stand in the way of an unprecedented military build-up to "catch up with the Soviets"--must not clamour for "defence cuts" whatever the economic and financial difficulties and constraints.

Pages 84-85 of the glossy presentation bear a map portraying "Soviet global power projection." It offers nine indicators of special military ties with the Soviet Union--"active Soviet treaties of friendship...major Cuban military presence abroad...naval operational deployments...nuclear submarine operating areas...sea lines of communications...overseas facilities...major Soviet arms clients...Soviet

and East European military advisors (major concentrations)...Soviet reconnaissance aircraft facilities."

Three of the indicators are shown as applying to India, "active Soviet treaties of friendship...major Soviet arms client...Soviet and East European military advisors (major concentrations)." The country's west coast and territorial waters are shown, moreover, to link up with the blue depicting Soviet "naval operational deployments."

"A Canard"

The map portrays, in a separate listing, a "significant presence" of 1550 Soviet "military and civilian advisors." Asked about this, an Indian diplomatic source commented: "This is a canard. There are no Soviet military advisors with Indian military formations."

(The numbers of "Soviet-bloc" advisors presented by the map range from 87,000 for Afghanistan and 12,000 for Cuba to 425 for Madagascar, 395 for Tanzania and 185 for Peru.)

With reference to arms sales, "India and Ethiopia" are found to account for 15 per cent of the \$37 billions in "arms aid" estimated to be extended by the Soviet Union in the 1974-80 period.

Annoying

But the official reference that will cause the most annoyance in India is the reassertion of the provocative positions that underlay the Nixon-Kissinger "tilt" of the early 1970s--focussed on the liberation events in Bangladesh. It occurs on Page 89 of the Pentagon document, in the section on "treaties."

It is pointed out--as context--that since 1971 the USSR has signed 12 treaties of friendship and cooperation of which 10 remain in force. That "such pacts do not reflect the true nature of Soviet support...(but)...it is no coincidence that the signatories have been the recipients of substantial Soviet military and economic assistance." And that "the signing of these treaties occurred at different stages of Soviet relations with the countries in question."

Then comes the reference to India: "With Angola and Ethiopia, treaties were signed after the principal objectives of military operations were basically achieved and the Soviet presence was entrenched. Moscow signed pacts with New Delhi and Hanoi shortly before they launched invasions of Pakistan and Kampuchea, respectively. The ruling regimes in the Congo, Syria and Afghanistan signed partly because they needed a tangible sign of Soviet backing against domestic opponents."

In all these cases, it is maintained, "the treaties vary slightly, containing similar calls for mutual cooperation, respect for sovereignty, and consultation on issues of common interest."

CSO: 4220/7181

U.S. POLICY CALLED 'MONETARISM RUN AMOK'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Sep 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Monetarism Run Amok"]

[Text] The decision by the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund to endorse the policies currently being followed by the organisation relating to the terms and conditions it attaches to its loans, could mean that the Indian application for a \$5.68 billion loan will finally be cleared, despite U.S. objections. The decision which follows an uncompromising defence of the IMF's policies by its managing director, Mr. Jacques de Larosiere, and a threatened walk-out by the developing countries, underlines the limits to the Reagan administration's capacity to force its views on the body as a whole. But the mere fact that the developing countries were forced to go to such extreme lengths shows that so far as increased assistance in the future is concerned, they face a long hard winter. Indeed, some of the consequences of American muscle-flexing are already being felt. The developing countries failed to get an increase in the IMF's liquidity, of 12 billion SDRs a year in the next three to five years. Even a compromise proposal asking the IMF's executive board to consider an increase of 4 billion SDRs a year for the next three years, has provoked an explicit reservation from the U.S. and other hardline developed countries. What this means is that since prices are rising all over the world at over 10 per cent a year, if the total volume of SDRs is frozen, the IMF's capacity to lend money to countries with a balance of payments deficit will shrink in real terms by this proportion year after year. What the U.S. and its allies are, therefore, trying to do is squeeze international liquidity indirectly, after failing to do so more directly by hardening the conditionality clauses.

It is impossible for any sane economist to understand what the U.S. hopes to gain by this. Not long ago, aghast at Mrs. Thatcher's decision to flare North Sea associate gas rather than spend public money to pipe it into Scotland, THE GUARDIAN had called the mindless monetarism of her government the economics of the madhouse. Exactly the same description applies to what passes for economic thinking in the Reagan administration today. The U.S. is expected to record a massive balance of trade deficit this year. Its budget deficit is almost out of control, unemployment is climbing, the predicted economic upsurge in the last quarter of the year is failing to materialise, and the inflation rate is actually rising despite Mr. Reagan having raised real rates of interest to the highest levels ever recorded in the history of capitalism. By doing this he has exported stagflation to Europe, for these policies have forced up the international value

of the dollar, increased the real cost of oil imports by 15 to 30 per cent to his partners in OECD, and reinforced cost-push inflation in their economies. They can only combat this by raising their own interest rates to bring back the capital flowing out and thus raise the exchange value of their currencies. But this will hit investment and further worsen recession and unemployment. Despite this, two EEC countries, France and Britain, have already been forced to raise their interest rates.

Having learned nothing from the experience of Europe, and undaunted by the criticism of his policies by the members of OECD, the U.S. government now wishes to force a similar stagflation on the third world oil importers. Whether they devalue their currencies or are denied funds by the IMF to meet their balance of payments deficits, the result will be the same: a steep decline in the volume of their non-oil imports, a further drop in the production of industries that in many countries are already at a standstill for want of imported spares, and a sharp rise in local prices because of an increase in the local currency cost of imports. Since nearly all of the third world non-oil imports come from the OECD countries, including the U.S., the resulting decline in their exports will further worsen domestic recession and their balance of payments problems. The vicious circle will then be complete. Perhaps the only way of showing Mr. Donald Reagan [sic] and Sir Geoffrey Howe how to break it may be to send them complimentary copies of Keynes' "General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money."

CSO: 4220/7146

EDITORIAL SCORES REAGAN REARMAMENT POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Oct 81 p 4

[Editorial: "American Machismo"]

[Text] President Reagan's reckless decision to go in for the MX missile and the B-1 bomber merits the strongest condemnation. For it cannot but touch off a disastrous nuclear arms race. Even more ominously it is bound to encourage those in the U.S. who have already started arguing that their country can not only engage itself in a limited nuclear war with the Soviet Union but also win it. Against this dangerous backdrop it is no surprise that even some staunch supporters of President Reagan's programme for a massive rearmament of the United States have been urging him to cancel the MX missile. Only last week the WASHINGTON POST reported that this might indeed happen. But this forecast has been belied, like the earlier expectation that, once confronted with the responsibilities of office, Mr. Reagan might learn to adjust his campaign rhetoric to harsh realities of life. The decision on the MX missile, it is noteworthy, was preceded by a strident publicity campaign—including the publication by the U.S. government of a 99-page booklet on "Soviet Military Power"—purporting to make out that the strategic balance between the two power blocs has changed to the disadvantage of the Western alliance.

The reasoning is specious. The U.S. and NATO, between them, possess more strategic nuclear warheads than do the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. What has, in fact, happened is that after lagging behind the U.S. for years, the Soviet Union has at last achieved a virtual strategic parity with it. And in the name of countering this "Russian menace," the Reagan administration seems hell-bent on reestablishing the kind of superiority that the U.S. once enjoyed over the USSR. That this is a vain hope ought to be clear even to the simple minded hawks who comprise the policy-making hard-core of the Reagan administration but apparently is not. Mr. Brezhnev has left no one in any doubt that the Soviet Union will not permit the U.S. to change the present military balance, that it will match new American weapons, item by item, and that it will pay any price to ensure that never again is it reduced to a position of strategic inferiority vis-a-vis the United States. It is true that the Soviet economy is in bad shape and Moscow faces serious political and economic crises in its orbit, especially in Poland. But the U.S. economy is not in the pink of health either, while Mr. Reagan's rearmament programme runs counter to his equally serious concern for balancing the budget. It is indeed a moot point whether the economy can take the strain of the multi-billion-dollar MX programme which comes in the wake of the decision

to develop the neutron bomb and launch the space shuttle which too is capable of military use. As for political trouble, the Reagan administration's aggressive quest for renewed strategic superiority over the Soviet Union has frightened America's West European allies into opposing the deployment of the Pershing II and Cruise missiles in their territories, created a powerful anti-nuclear movement in Europe and encouraged faint antiwar stirrings even within the U.S. Above all, there can be no two opinions that when it comes to the crunch, the Russians are capable of accepting far greater sacrifices than the American people would ever countenance.

Two other features of the Reagan policies on rearmament deserve notice. First, while constantly complaining of Soviet "expansionism" and "aggressiveness," it is the U.S. which has stepped up its presence in the Indian Ocean, consolidated its hold on West Asia, initiated the re-equipment of NATO forces and at the same time gone in for a series of offensive weapons of which the MX is the latest but not the least. The Soviet weaponry is, by comparison, defensive. Secondly, the justification offered by the U.S. for developing the MX missile is dubious, to say the least. According to the protagonists of the MX programme, the Russians will soon be able to destroy all landbased U.S. missiles in one cataclysmic strike and therefore it is necessary to develop a movable missile which can be shifted from silo to silo to guard against a surprise Soviet attack. Not all strategists accept this scenario as feasible. But supposing the danger were real, what then? After all the present balance of terror between the two super powers rests on a "triad" of landbased ICBMs, long-range bombers and submarine-launched missiles. Will the Russians be so foolish as to invite self-annihilation through retaliation by America's submarine-launched and bomber-borne missiles by knocking off the land-based U.S. missiles? The argument holds good even in reverse.

CSO: 4220/7165

REPORTER TELLS OF SUPPORT FOR KHALISTAN IN U.S.

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Oct 81 pp 1, 5

[Article by K. N. Malik]

[Text] New Delhi, October 2--The government of India is keeping a strict watch on the protagonists of Khalistan in foreign countries.

Besides Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan, former finance minister of Punjab, who styles himself as president of the republic of Khalistan, Mr. Ganga Singh Dhillon, president of Shri Nankana Sahib Foundation, is the main pillar of the movement abroad. They claim to have the support of several influential Senators and Congressmen and other persons in the United States.

Amongst the supporters they have are Mr. Mark O. Hatfield, Senator J. Helms of North Carolina, Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia and Mr. James C. Corman, member of the House of Representatives.

Earlier this year, these leaders claimed to have met Mr. Alexander Haig, secretary of the state, and Mr. Charles Percy of the Senate foreign relations committee.

According to Indian intelligence sources, Dr. Chauhan is in close contact with Gen. Daniel Graham, co-chairman of the American security council, a private organisation. It is understood that Dr. Graham this year enabled Dr. Chauhan to meet the Pakistani foreign minister, Mr. Agha Shahi.

Both Dr. Chauhan and Mr. Dhillon have not only been keeping close contacts with the Pakistan embassies in London and Washington but have been frequently visiting Pakistan. They are reported to have easy access to top Pakistani leaders, including President Zia. It was only because of the support of the Pakistani leaders that Mr. Dhillon announced that a world Sikh conference would be held in Nankana Sahib on November 8 or 9. In view of the changed circumstances after the IA plane hijacking, it is, however, not certain whether the proposed conference will be held.

It may be recalled that the demand for Khalistan was first made by Dr. Jagjit Singh in the U.K. He had proclaimed himself president of the republic of Khalistan and said that he proposed to set up offices and consulates in the U.K.

and some West European countries. He said the first consulate would be opened in Frankfurt.

He had said he was discussing with the U.S. government the question of setting up a Khalistan government in exile. He had also said he would approach the U.S. government for assistance and training a 10,000-strong Khalistan army.

The Khalistan passports and stamps which were distributed in India early this year were printed in Canada. Blank passports were issued by Dr. Chauhan to several people.

Dr. Chauhan had issued refugee certificates to 1,400 people from Punjab and enabled them to seek refuge in Canada. He had also organized the defence of illegal entrants to the U.S., Canada and some European countries. He had issued certificates to these illegal entrants under the designation "president of the republic of Khalistan."

According to reports with the government, several Akali leaders who visited the U.S. participated in a conference organized by Mr. Dhillon and Dr. Chauhan. In one such meeting in April this year in New York, a resolution was passed favouring the creation of Khalistan to preserve the identity of the Sikh people. The resolution described the boundaries of the new state from Jammu to Kandla and Jaisalmer to New Delhi. It was claimed that this resolution had the approval of the SGPC and the Akal Takht.

These leaders also claimed they have made an application to the United Nations seeking associate membership of the U.N. or on consultative status. The Indian permanent representative at the U.N., however, has informed the government that the claim of the Sikh leaders has not been confirmed by the U.N. secretariat. The secretary-general's office has said no such application has been received so far from the Shromani Akali Dal.

It is in view of these activities that the government of India, at the highest level, is intensifying its efforts to meet the challenge in foreign countries.

CSO: 4220/7165

REPUBLICAN PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS PARLEY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Oct 81 p 8

[Text] Pune, October 1--The Republican Party of India (Khobragade) has blamed the Tamil Nadu government for the recent mass conversion of Harijans to Islam in the state.

The party central committee, which concluded its two-day meeting here yesterday, has said persecution by police officials and social inequalities and injustices perpetrated by caste Hindus led to the conversions.

Opposing conversions to Islam, the committee appealed to the scheduled castes to embrace Buddhism.

A resolution adopted by it urged the Central government to extend educational and other facilities to the Harijans who embraced Buddhism, as a deterrent against conversions to Islam.

The party welcomed the Centres move to reserve jobs for scheduled castes in the private sector. The reservations and other facilities were necessary for some more years, it added.

However, the party opposed reserved constituencies for the scheduled castes in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections. It also demanded implementation of electoral reforms in regard to financial help.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Mr. Khobragade, president of the RPI, alleged that the scheduled castes were pressurised to vote for a particular candidate during the elections in many states.

Mr. Khobragade said the silver jubilee of the mass conversion of Harijans to Buddhism would be celebrated in October. Some 2,500 Harijans in Tamil Nadu, 1,000 scheduled caste people and a Muslim family in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra and a few others in Gujarat would embrace Buddhism in October, he added.

CSO: 4220/7156

MORE CHANGES IN UTTAR PRADESH MINISTRY REPORTED

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] Lucknow, Oct. 3--In a major reshuffle of the portfolios of his Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, today designated Mrs Swaroop Kumari ~~Rakshi~~ as the new Home Minister and allocated Education, Cultural Affairs and Sports to Mr Naunihal Singh, reports UNI.

The Chief Minister himself took over the Planning portfolio from his Finance Minister, Mr Brahm Dutt. The Minister of State, Mr Sunil Shastri, was made Minister for Energy.

He divested Mr Vasudeo Singh of the Cooperation portfolio and allocated it to the Minister of State, Mr Bachcha Pathak.

The Cabinet Minister, Mr Bhanu Pratap Singh, was divested of the Excise portfolio, which was allocated to the Minister of State, Mr Goverdhan Tewari, while Mr Nirbhay Narain Singh, Minister of State, was given independent charge of Forests and Wild Life.

Mr Anmar Rizvi, who retains the PWD portfolio, was divested of Parliamentary Affairs, which was given to Mr Ram Rattan Singh, Minister of State.

CSO: 4220/7173

UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER EXPANDS CABINET

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] Lucknow, October 1--In a surprise move, the chief minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, today promoted five deputy ministers as ministers of state and appointed two deputy ministers.

Three of the five deputy ministers who have been promoted are below 35 in age and all of them were attached to the energy department when a grave power crisis overtook the state in the summer.

Mr. Sunil Shastri, deputy minister for energy, is the son of the late Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri. Mr. Sunil Shastri had met the main opposition attack of the ministry on the power issue in the vidhan parishad.

The other deputy minister for energy, Mr. Nirmal Kumar Khatri, is the grandson of the late Acharya Narendra Dev. He becomes minister of state for energy. Mr. Khatri, a Youth Congress (I) leader, was close to Mr. Sanjay Gandhi.

Mr. Zaffar Ali Naqvi, deputy minister, becomes a minister of state in-charge of energy. Another representative of the minorities, Mr. Javed Ali Khan, deputy minister for public works, was also promoted as minister of state. Mr. Jairaj Gautam, deputy revenue minister, was promoted as minister of state.

The new deputy ministers sworn in today are Mr. Daljit Singh and Mr. Dal Singar Yadav.

CSO: 4220/7156

HOME MINISTER REPORTS 'GRAVE' SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 27 Sep 81 p 7

[Text]

MADRAS, Sept. 28.—Mr Yogen-
dra Makwana, Union Minister of
State for Home Affairs, said here
today that the law and order situa-
tion in Tamil Nadu was "grave"
and urged the Chief Minister, Mr
M. G. Ramachandran, to transfer
the Inspector-general of police and
"revitalize" the police force. Ad-
dressing a Press conference at Raj
Bhavan, he hoped the Chief Minis-
ter would heed his advice.

Mr Makwana said it was odd that
the State Government should claim
that everything was in order when
the Opposition DMK leader, Mr M.
Karunanidhi and hundreds of his
party men, were under detention
and self-immolation of DMK volun-
teers to press for the release of
their leader had been the order of
the day. The Centre, he said, could
not remain a silent spectator to
the growing violence in the State.

Hartians and backward classes in
Tamil Nadu were not receiving pro-
tection, Mr Makwana alleged. He
wanted the State Government to
implement schemes intended for
their welfare and utilize funds al-
located for the purpose.

The State Government in a Press
Note denied the allegation made
by Mr I. Elaiyaperumal, Congress
(I) MLA, and endorsed by Mr
Makwana, that Rs 2 crores sanc-
tioned by the Centre for the wel-
fare of the Scheduled Castes in
Tamil Nadu had been diverted.
The administration had undertaken
a large number of socio-economic
programmes to improve the lot of
the Scheduled Castes, the Note
said.

At a meeting hosted by the Chief
Minister, Mr Makwana discussed
with Mr Ramachandran the conver-
sion of Harijans to Islam, the law
and order situation in Tamil Nadu,
the arrest of Mr Karunanidhi and
his followers and the growing
number of self-immolations deman-
ding the release of the DMK leader.
Two more cases of self-immola-
tion were reported today.

Addressing a public meeting last
night, Mr Makwana said the entire
State of Tamil Nadu was in tur-
moil and Mr Ramachandran was
sitting atop an active volcano.
Hundreds of DMK and Congress(I)
workers had been taken into cus-
tody and the Government had not
taken proper steps to defuse the
situation, he said. However, the
Centre had no intention to top-
ple the AIADMK Ministry, he ad-
ded.

PTI adds: There seemed no pub-
lic response to yesterday's city "har-
tal" call given in Madras by a sec-
tion of the student community de-
manding the release of the DMK
president. Buses, taxis and auto-
rickshaws were plying normally.
Shops, business houses and banks
functioned as usual. Attendance
in Government offices were "above
normal", police said.

Schools functioned as usual.
Many colleges had declared "study
holidays" from Thursday for the
coming semester examinations. Mr
Sripal, City Police Commissioner,
said it was an "incident-free day".

The DMK has rejected Mr Mak-
wana's advice that it discuss with
the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister,

the formula he had suggested to
defuse the situation in the State.

Mr Dhandapani, DMK leader,
said there was no further scope
for discussion with the Chief Mi-
nister. His party had already made
it clear on more than one occasion
that there would be no necessity
to continue the agitation (on the
Sri Lanka Tamils issue) once all
the DMK workers were released.

UNI reports: Mr Makwana said
in Tirupati today that a solution
to the Assam problem was in sight.
He said a meeting was expected
to be held soon.

CSO: 4220/7131

RAJ NARAIN TELLS DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST AIMS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 27 Sep 81 p 7

[Text]

MR Raj Narain, leader of the Democratic Socialist Party, said in Calcutta on Saturday that apart from the four seats held by his party in the West Bengal Assembly, the DSP as a constituent of the Left Front in the State would in the coming Assembly election lay claim to those seats where organizationally his party was strong. He said that in the 1980 parliamentary election, the Lok Dal had come to an adjustment with the CPI and CPI(M) over five seats and in the next parliamentary election the DSP would show in the "Hindi belt" the same understanding to its partners in the Front in West Bengal.

Mr Raj Narain said the DSP had joined the Left Front to strengthen the Government in West Bengal. His party was trying to unite socialist, democratic and secular forces in the country as a viable alternative to the Congress (I). Complimenting the Left Front Government, he said it had done exemplary work in various fields and should be emulated by other States.

He declared that his party would try to frustrate any move by the Centre to dislodge the Left Front Government in West Bengal. He felt that considering the mass base of the Front, the Centre would find it difficult to dislodge it. But if it was toppled, it would certainly come back to power with a larger majority and greater goodwill of the people.

Mr Raj Narain was highly critical of the Centre's decision to send an Indian pilgrim party to Kailash and Mansarovar. The members of the party had to obtain a visa from the Chinese Government to go to these pilgrim spots which, according to him clearly belonged to India. "By allowing the members of the party to take the visa, the Government of India has accepted the Chinese sovereignty over these regions. I wonder how Mrs Gandhi accepted this position when her father clearly refused to do so," Mr Raj Narain added.

The Socialist leader expressed his concern over the attempted assassination of Mr Latoori Singh, his party MLA in Uttar Pradesh, in Allahabad on Friday. He said the attempt on the MLA's life had come only a few days after the security guard provided by the State Government for his safety had been withdrawn.

CSO: 4220/7131

PUNJAB CRACKS DOWN ON KHALISTAN SUPPORTERS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Oct 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Chandigarh, Oct. 4 (PTI)--The Punjab Government is understood to have decided to use the National Security Act against the protagonists of Khalistan, it was authoritatively learnt here tonight.

The sources said the district magistrates in the State had been directed to use the Act against the extremists, including the activists of the Dal Khalsa, a militant Sikh youth organisation which masterminded the hijacking of the Indian Airlines Boeing to Pakistan on Tuesday last.

Our Staff Correspondent adds:

Dr Sohan Singh, retired director of the State Health Services, and Dr Karnail Singh, retired joint director of Animal Husbandry department were among about 80 persons arrested by the police since the crackdown on Khalistan protagonists and the Dal Khalsa.

Both of them were arrested at Mohali and taken to Amritsar for interrogation.

Dr Sohan Singh is related to the former Congress president and Union Minister Mr Swaran Singh. His son, married to Mr Swaran Singh's daughter, holds a diplomatic assignment abroad.

Mr Sohan Singh and Dr Karnail Singh are president and general secretary, respectively of the Sikh Sophisticated Forum.

The arrests followed raids on a number of places in the city and nearby Mohali in the last two days.

Dr Sohan Singh and Dr Karnail Singh were reported to have organised half a dozen seminars in the past two years in support of "Khalistan" movement and worked for bringing the Sikh intelligentsia together to espouse the cause.

Unconfirmed reports said most of these persons have just been rounded up for initial interrogation.

The Hoshiarpur Police have detained Mr Devinder Singh, a lecturer of Guru Gobind Singh College at Chandigarh stated to be a member of the Dal Khalsa, in connection

with the attempted sabotage of railway track between Hoshiarpur and Nasrula section earlier this week.

Reports also said that following recent CBI investigations, challan and likely to be put up against Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale in the Nirankari Baba murder case as well. The CBI had closely questioned the Sant when he was in police custody after his arrest in connection with Lala Jagat Narain murder case.

Sant Bhindranwale had himself told the visitors in Forezepur jail that CBI had asked him about 400 questions in connection with the Nirankari Baba murder case.

Agencies add:

Phagwara police arrested Khalistan protagonist and senior Akali leader (Sukhjinder group) Jaswant Singh Multani from Bhulath village, 35 km from here yesterday.

Police also took into custody a Khalistan activist R. M. Nagauri in Kharar tehsil in Ropar district.

In Hoshiarpur, a well-known Naxalite, Mr David Bharti, from Tanda was held on charge of possessing unlicensed arms.

A Bhatinda report says about 48 of the 81 persons arrested as a precautionary measure in the district following the arrest of Sant Bhindranwale, have been released.

CSO: 4220/7179

MIRZA BEG TO REJOIN SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S PARTY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Srinagar, Sept. 27--Mirza Afzal Beg, former Deputy Chief Minister, today announced the disbandment of the Inquilabi National Conference and his decision to rejoin the ruling National Conference, reports PTI.

The decision was announced at a Press conference by his son, Mr Mehboob Beg. Mirza Afzal Beg, who has been ailing for the past two years, was present.

The decision to rejoin the ruling National Conference was taken at the "suggestion" of its president, Mr Farooq Abdullah, Mr Beg said.

This brings to an end a three-year "confrontation" between Mirza Afzal Beg and the Chief Minister, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. The two leaders parted company after a 45-year-long political association, when the Sheikh ousted Mr Beg from the Cabinet on September 25, 1978, and subsequently expelled him "forever" from the National Conference.

Mr Farooq Abdullah, who was expected at the Press conference to "bless" Mr Beg's "home-coming," did not turn up.

CSO: 4220/7138

HARYANA REPORTEDLY MAY HOLD 1982 ELECTIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, September 27--The possibility of Haryana assembly elections being held in February-March next year is now under serious consideration and this has activated both the ruling party and the opposition groups in formulating their strategies.

An electoral alliance or at least an understanding among the opposition groups is considered to be the only way in which they can put up a fight against the Congress (I). Moves have, therefore, been initiated for opening a dialogue among them for evolving a common approach to the elections.

Charan's Motive

In this context, the presence of Mr. Charan Singh, Lok Dal president, at a BJP function here to celebrate Dindayal Upadhyaya's 66th birth anniversary, where he delivered a speech, is considered significant.

Mr. Charan Singh, in his prepared speech, dwelt entirely on economic matters and did not touch upon political questions or any issue relating to current affairs. Yet, his mere agreeing to address a purely BJP gathering is seen as an indication that some moves are on in the context of the Haryana elections. This is the first time that Mr. Charan Singh was publicly seen with BJP leaders like Mr. A. B. Vajpayee and Mr. L. K. Advani after the fall of the Janata government.

The BJP, at a recent study camp held at Vrindaban, had decided that it would not participate in any merger talks with any other party and would maintain its separate identity. But the party president, Mr. Vajpayee, had also made it clear that it would co-operate with other opposition parties on specific issues.

It is known that the state Lok Dal leader, Mr. Devi Lal, had been approaching the BJP in the state for opening talks for a poll alliance. It would, therefore, seem that the matter has now moved up to the Central level for exploring the possibilities of having a common front for the limited purpose of contesting the elections.

As far as the ruling party is concerned, the two opposing groups led respectively by the chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal and the former defence minister, Mr. Bansi Lal, have become active. After maintaining a discreet silence for a long time, Mr. Bansi Lal has again appeared on the Haryana scene. In a few public speeches, he has claimed support of the prime minister.

CSO: 4220/7137

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES TROOPS IN WESTERN SECTOR

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] Somewhere in the Western Sector, Sep 26 (PTI)—President N. Sanjiva Reddy today expressed concern over the recent arms build-up across India's border and called upon members of the defence forces to be ready to meet any eventuality.

While India always pursued the policy of living in peace with its neighbours, 'we are not always allowed to pursue our peaceful policy,' he said while addressing members of the air force, army and Border Security Force.

Therefore, 'we have to be ready to meet any eventuality, for safeguarding India's independence,' he added.

Mr Reddy told the jawans that he was confident that entrusted with such a responsible job, they would discharge their duty with great zeal.

He said since India became independent, its soldiers had given a good account of themselves to defend the country's freedom on many occasions.

The record of service of our personnel of the army, air force and navy had been exemplary in times of peace also in helping people during natural calamities like floods and cyclones and maintaining law and order whenever their help was sought.

Mr Reddy said the whole nation was proud of the armed forces, guarding a frontier which 'requires will and courage.'

'I am glad to know that our soldiers are keeping vigilance round the clock with single-minded devotion,' the President said.

The Government, he said was fully aware of the many hardships faced by defence personnel, their families and ex-servicemen. It had been thinking of taking various steps to improve service conditions of the defence services, though modernisation of the defence forces was the first and foremost task before the Government.

The President said he was sure that the defence personnel would continue to maintain the tradition of 'true and disciplined soldiers' and carry the torch forward.

The Government on its part would always strive to do its best.

CSO: 4220/7135

DELHI STEPS UP VIGIL AGAINST NAXALITES

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 4--The Centre has stepped up its vigilance on the activities of naxalite extremists which have been on the increase.

Law and order being the responsibility of the State Governments, New Delhi has not issued any formal directives but a coordinated approach is commended to them to deal with extremist violence.

Among the measures suggested is stringent application of existing laws and proper utilisation of legal and administrative provisions to prevent activists from instigating violence. The extremist thrust could be blunted, it is also pointed out, by improving the intelligence set-up.

Janata's liberal attitude: Since 1977 when the Janata Government adopted a liberal attitude towards the naxalites there had been a steady increase in violent incidents, triggered by them.

The number went up from 69 (with 21 deaths) that year to 163 (40 deaths) in 1978, to 233 (62 deaths) in 1979, to 305 (84 deaths) in 1980, to 203 (48 deaths) in the current year up to the end of August.

The worst-affected States had been Andhra Pradesh, followed in that order, by West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala and Punjab. Till last year, Tamil Nadu too figured prominently in this category.

Despite fragmentation into several groups, following different tactical lines, the naxalite movement, according to reports received here, has gained in strength with the number of its members exceeding 30,000. Besides it has increased its influence among students, youth, the intelligentsia, industrial workers, peasants and agricultural labour.

Tactical line: The participation of some extremist groups in the elections has not changed the situation materially, it is felt here, because of their declarations that this was only a new tactical line to propagate their ideology and not an evidence of their belief in parliamentary institutions.

The number of naxalites in jail now is not known. In 1977 before the Janata relaxation, 1,419 of them were in prison. This number dropped to 403 in June last year.

The assessment of the present Government is different from that of its predecessor, indicated among other things, by the letter sent to the State Governments by the then Home Minister, Mr. Charan Singh, which said:

"As you are perhaps aware, the naxalites are no longer a monolithic group having a common strategy and tactical line. After the death of Charu Mazumdar the movement split into several groups and there are six well-defined factions in existence of which the United Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) is one.

"This party led by their general secretary, Mr. S. N. Singh, has been taking a relatively moderate line since 1972. The central committee of the party recently passed a resolution abjuring the path of violence, affirming its faith in democratic processes and expressing a desire for its participation in the forthcoming Assembly elections.

"Mr. S. N. Singh and some of his colleagues met me recently and assured me of their firm resolve to abandon the path of violent revolutionary struggle and suggested that they should be enabled to participate in the electoral process."

Land reforms: It is however conceded that attention needs to be given to land reform measures, particularly in the States where the progress is tardy, to the problems of those sections which feel alienated and therefore do not respond sufficiently to administrative overtures and to the building of social awareness, both in the areas affected by extremist violence and those considered to be likely breeding ground.

CSO: 4220/7181

REPORT ON DELHI PRC ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Oct 81 p 8

[Text] Chinese Ambassador Shen Jian said in the Capital on Saturday his country and India needed friendly relations for developing their national economies and improving the living standards of their people, reports UNI.

Addressing a function organised to mark the 32nd anniversary of the founding of China, he said there was no hiding the fact that history had left over some issues including the boundary question.

"I am convinced that a fair, reasonable and comprehensive settlement of the questions between us can be reached taking into account the historical background and the present actual situation and the national feelings of the two peoples," he added.

The Chinese Ambassador said in this turbulent and complex international situation and changeable, developing friendly and co-operative relations between the two countries conformed to the fundamental interest and wishes of the peoples. It would also be favourable to peace in Asia and the world, he added.

The Chinese Government had been following a new policy of readjustment, a policy of reducing the scale of capital construction and giving priority to developing agriculture, consumer industries, energy resources, communications and transport and reforming economic management. "The policy is paying off very well," he added.

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee-I president B. N. Pande presided over the function, which was inaugurated by Dr B. K. Basu, who was one of the members of the Indian medical mission to China during 1938 and 1943. The Sri Lanka High Commissioner was also present on the occasion.

CSO: 4220/7176

DELHI, EXPERTS DIFFER ON DROUGHT DAMAGE ESTIMATES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 26 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 25--Conflicting versions are available about the extent of damage caused by this year's drought confined to Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and western U.P. While experts not willing to be quoted estimate a loss in the kharif production by 30 per cent, the Centre is optimistic that even if the paddy target of 58 million tons for the current season is not achieved, the total yield may touch 54 to 56 million tons.

Krishi Bhavan sources, however, add that it is too early to hazard a guess on the firm estimate of paddy production. At the same time, they are quite wary about the final prospects, which will depend on rainfall and irrigation "in the remaining period of the south-west monsoon".

Though the official version says that drought is confined to four States, its impact in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir has been lost sight of. The dry spell has reportedly affected maize in these two States. The estimate of a senior scientist of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is that while maize has been affected to the tune of 30 per cent in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the figure is 25 per cent in respect of bajra.

But he said that the next two weeks were a "critical". "If there are no rains for another two weeks gram, rape and mustard will be affected because their sowing time is limited.

The sugarcane crop in western U.P. may also be affected besides maize.

Krishi Bhavan's basis for optimism is not that the kharif production is likely to be normal in other parts of the country not affected by drought. In fact, West Bengal is one State where a record kharif production is expected.

The Ministry's analysis of crop production on the basis of this year's deficient rainfall (based on the 1978-79 production) is that in Haryana the rice production is expected to be 1.2 million tons, while in Punjab it is estimated to be 3.1 million tons. In Rajasthan, the rice production is likely to be 0.2 million tons and in U.P. 5.9 million tons.

The percentage of this year's rice production under kharif worked out by the Ministry in the drought-affected States, 22. It is 40 per cent for jowar,

39 per cent for bajra, 33 per cent for maize, 25 per cent for ragi, 19 per cent for small millets, 30 per cent for arhar, 15 per cent for other pulses, 7 per cent for groundnut and 20 per cent for cotton.

The Government's optimism is shared by Mr H. K. Jain, director of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. His estimate is that this year's kharif production will be as good as last year's. He feels that this year's drought "is not widespread."

CSO: 4220/7127

STATES ADMONISHED TO STICK TO PLAN SCHEDULE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] The Planning Commission has asked the States to make realistic assessment of the major Sixth Plan projects and accord adequate priority to on-going schemes while formulating the 1982-83 annual plans "to avoid time and cost over-runs," reports UNI.

Planning Commission member-secretary Manmohan Singh has written to State chief secretaries that 1982-83 being the mid-year of the Sixth Plan, "it has to be ensured that the Plan activities are strictly time-bound and completed within the Plan period, so as to avoid time over-runs and consequently cost over-runs."

In the guidelines for formulation of 1982-83 annual plans, the Commission has said that there should be greater emphasis on extensive plantation of quick-growing species and on setting up bio-gas plants and other sources of energy to mitigate fuel and energy shortages.

Dr Singh advised the States to lay adequate emphasis on timely completion of irrigation and power projects.

Self-Reliance

Reiterating the objective of self-reliance, he pointed out that better performance in agriculture would obviate the need for imports even where these were resorted to as a short-term measure.

About the resource position, he said every possible effort would be made to maintain Central assistance to the States at an adequate level. The States would have to economise on their non Plan expenditure and raise more Plan resources according to their commitments.

The working of the State Electricity Boards, irrigation systems and transport corporations needed to be improved with a view not only to making good their losses, but also to contributing to the States' resources. It was essential that every possible care was taken before taking up new starts while formulating the Plan proposal.

Dr Singh has said that priority accorded to the Minimum Needs Programme must be maintained. Other target-specific programmes such as the Scheduled Castes component plan, the tribal sub-plan, the Integrated Rural Development Programme and the National Rural Employment Programme had to be adequately provided for and efficiently implemented.

CSO: 4220/7176

PRC TEAMS CONSULT ON DEALING WITH MULTINATIONALS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, September 29--China has sought to learn from India's long experience in dealing with multinationals, opening up a new field of co-operation between the two countries.

In the first flush of post-Mao enthusiasm to reach out to the outside world, the Chinese leadership had decided to open the doors to multinationals in a big way in a bid to modernise the country's industry. A large number of agreements with foreign firms were entered into. But they were all cancelled when the Chinese leaders became unsure of the implications.

Beijing has, however, not given up the idea of inviting multinational investment entirely. But it is exercising caution in this regard, and has apparently decided to open up on a few selected fields as the first probing steps.

China has sought Indian assistance in this regard. Two teams of senior officials have visited New Delhi for talks with Indian leaders in order to benefit from India's experience. They held discussions with the finance minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the ministry officials.

Interest in Terms

This was followed up by Mr. Wang Yao Ting, president of the China Council for Promotion of International Trade, sending specific queries to the Indian government on various aspects of multinational operations.

Since multinationals have been operating in India for quite some time, Mr. Wang has sought to know the areas in which the foreign firms have been allowed to make investment, the terms under which the collaboration agreements had been entered into and the mode of technology transfer.

Indian officials have already briefed the Chinese teams the various measures taken by the government to regulate and restrict the operation of multinationals in the country. They were explained how the inroads by multinationals into the national economy were prevented by the industrial policy resolution.

China has accepted the Indian suggestion that a code of conduct should be evolved for multinationals operating in the third world countries so that their operations did not imperil national sovereignty. There should be a consensus in the developing world on the terms under which these foreign companies should be allowed to operate.

India and China are gradually entering into other fields of economic co-operation. They have formed a sort of a cartel to make sugar purchases from the international market.

CSO: 4220/7146

BENGAL CONGRESS-I OPPOSES MARCH ELECTIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Oct 81 p 7

[Text] Calcutta, Sept. 30--The West Bengal Congress (I) has opposed the ruling Left Front's demand for Assembly elections in March 1982, three months ahead of schedule.

Mr. A. G. Mukherjee, PCC (I) president, said here that the Front should raise the issue at the appropriate level instead of publicising it beforehand.

He pointed out that elections and their timing were decided by the Central Election Commission. They were not ordered on anybody's demand.

According to information available with his party, between 35,000 and 40,000 fictitious voters had been listed in every constituency. The electoral rolls must, therefore, be revised. The Centre had also received complaints about the rolls. All this would take time.

He said he failed to understand why a majority Government was trying to go in for elections before its term had expired.

It may be recalled that Mr. Promode Dasgupta, chairman of the Left Front, had recently demanded the Assembly elections by March 1982, because June was either too wet or too hot.

CSO: 4220/7164

SHIFT IN CPI-M ATTITUDE TOWARD CENTER SEEN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Oct 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] Calcutta, October 3--Interesting shifts in the overall attitude towards Mrs. Indira Gandhi's leadership are discernible within the CPM at various levels in West Bengal and it will be worth watching how far this line of thinking is reflected in the deliberations of the party's highest policy-making body--congress--to be held in Andhra Pradesh in January.

How far this has been prompted by the party leadership's desire to ensure the safety of the three state governments headed by the CPM in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura is difficult to say. But what appears more likely to be the main cause is the developing situation inside and around India and an attempt to make an independent assessment of the roles of different political forces inside the country.

The areas outside the country which have attracted much attention are Egypt, Israel, Iran, Afghanistan, Thailand, and Pakistan in particular. All such developments have appeared to them as a definite pointer to the shape of things to come. Above all, President Reagan's new policies have created grave misgivings.

Starting from this understanding of the external situation, sections of CPM leadership and the rank and file have almost reached the conclusion that there is a danger to India's integrity and sovereignty, which has been aggravated by the presence and activities of divisive and sectarian forces within the country about whose loyalty to the national cause no one can be sure in case there is a precipitation, especially through the U.S. promptings.

Internally, the position is no less uncomfortable with the deepening economic crisis about which the government of India and its bourgeoisie-landlord-backed leadership is failing to do anything effective but, at the same time, trying to give concessions to national and trans-national monopolists.

These CPM sections have come to believe that Mrs. Gandhi alone can provide an effective leadership in this critical period of Indian history and there is no alternative. The natural corollary is she needs to be supported.

Quite obviously, this line of thinking rules out the potentiality or the effectiveness of an alternative bourgeoisie-landlord leadership that, one can imagine,

can be provided by the Janata, the Lok Dal or the BJP, single-handed or collectively. Also, it is an indirect admission of incapacity of the so-called left and democratic forces to replace Mrs. Gandhi and the Congress (I).

Even the top party leaders here admit that they fully support Mrs. Gandhi's anti-imperialist and non-aligned role in international affairs. But what worries them is Mrs. Gandhi's new measures like the National Security Act and the Essential Service Maintenance Act. In their view, Mrs. Gandhi might try to exploit India's external threat to further curb internal democratic activities and "how can we compromise on that?" they ask. Yet this seems to leave at least some scope for mutual understanding.

Obviously, this takes the party closer to Moscow and it might indeed be difficult for leaders like Mr. Jyoti Basu, in the West Bengal context in particular, to ask the rank and file to fall in line with this approach; any such talk can shock them out of their wits. But, if this be the feelings of a sizable section of the party here, those of comrades in other states can well be imagined because normally, the CPM unit has popularly been known as slightly pro-Beijing, even though the overall direction has been to keep equal distance from both these centres of the communist movement.

Naturally, therefore, it may be too much to expect a concrete reflection of this new thinking in any document emerging from the party congress, because the leadership knows it will take time for it to sink in and also it may expose the party to manipulations by Mrs. Gandhi. But how many times expressions like 'authoritarianism' and 'one-party dictatorship' are used in regard to Mrs. Gandhi in these documents and the way this is done, might become a sure pointer.

The fact remains in even a small section of West Bengal leaders and activists are found to be thinking on these lines, these must have been discussed already in the party's national forums in one form or another.

These circles make no bones to say that Moscow-Beijing relations have been a great hindrance, so much so that it is difficult now to start any political resolution, which has been customary for any party congress, with a preface analysing the international relationship of imperialist and socialist forces and to try to fit the domestic developments and forecasts therein. Mrs. Gandhi's latest talk about a revival of cold war atmosphere seems to have struck a sympathetic chord in many Marxist minds.

Even if this line of thinking prevails in the coming congress and still left unsatisfied for practical considerations, it may not necessitate any change in the two tactical slogans that had emerged from Jullunder. These are forging a broad platform "to exploit bourgeoisie-landlord differences," and a left and democratic front "to further the struggle against the bourgeoisie-landlord classes in order to overthrow them" in the long run.

However, the state unit might demand a clarification of the distinction between the two tactical lines, in order to avoid the confusion and misgivings created in the past and a reiteration that, without strengthening the left and democratic front, the thought of exploiting bourgeoisie-landlord differences through a broad platform is juvenile.

It is now authoritatively learnt that the differences in the last politburo meeting that had cropped up in course of the drafting of the political resolution concerned not any aspect of the left and democratic front, but arose out of the West Bengal leaders' insistence on recording in that document a correct assessment of the party's role in 1979-80, especially relating to the question of withdrawing support from the Janata government and pledging it to the one later headed by Mr. Charan Singh.

In the state unit's view, as reflected by members as a basis for intra-party discussions preparatory to the party congress, it has been clearly stated: "It is necessary to find out whether in implementing the decisions (of that period taken by the central committee) there had been deviations from the tactical approach formalised at Jullunder. This is all the more necessary, because an impression has gone round that our decision hastened the fall of Mr. Morarji Desai's government just as it fell due to internal conflicts. It is necessary to ascertain how much of this popular misgiving is real."

CSO: 4220/7171

DESAI: NATIONAL ALLIANCE WITH CPI-M DIFFICULT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Oct 81 p 4

[Text] Cochin, Oct 3 (UNI)--Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai said here today that it would be difficult for the Janata Party to cooperate with the CPI-M on a national alliance against the present Government.

Asked for his reactions to the politburo's call in this connection Mr Desai told a news conference "when I cooperated with them, they stabbed me in the back," "how can I trust them," he asked.

Mr Desai recalled that he as Prime Minister had supported the West Bengal Government against his own party unit in that State, but they (CPI-M) had no such consideration.

He, however, made it clear that he did not consider them as "enemies." But there was always the question of "whom one can work with and with whom one cannot." On specific issues, however, the two parties could have joint action, he added.

In Kerala Mr Desai said the Janata Party would not help the CPI-M to continue in office if the Congress-S pulled out of the Left Democratic Front Government.

Referring to the law and order situation in Kerala Mr Desai said 'law and order is bad not only in Kerala but everywhere else.' Kerala might be worse since there were more political murders.

This he attributed to the 'Marxist philosophy which generates violence.'

Asked how he held the Marxists alone responsible he replied 'they are in Government and so their responsibility is more.'

About the 'Khalistan' movement he said it was nothing but 'high treason' and should be crushed with the full force at Government's command.

Condemning the hijacking of a plane to Lahore by 'Khalistan' supporters he told newsmen here that only traitors did such things. The Government would have the support of all parties in suppressing divisive forces.

But he added the Government seemed to be afraid to deal with such situations firmly. This showed its incompetence.

Commenting on corruption in the country, he said it was rampant at all levels of administration, the 'Antulay affair' was only one instance. The Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the 'fountain head' and hence could not curb her partymen he said.

CSO: 4220/7176

CPI-M OVERCOMES UNCERTAINTY OVER DELHI AIMS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Sep 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Whatever may be the outcome of the Left Front's move for an early Assembly election next year, it has been able to elicit the opinion of the Congress (I) leaders that they would like to see the Front Government in West Bengal continue its full term. This is considered significant in CPI (M) circles.

The CPI (M) workers have now overcome the feeling of uncertainty prevailing some time ago that the Centre may make a move to topple the Government. They are now sure that there will be no such move till the end of this year. This, they think, will place them in an advantageous position because by December the district conferences and the State conference will be over, helping to consolidate the party further.

Although the unpredictability of Mrs Gandhi's plans has been referred to time and again by Mr Promode Dasgupta and other CPI (M) leaders, there is a feeling in party circles that the Centre has been unable to take any drastic step against the West Bengal Government because of the differences within the State Congress (I) and the pro-Left atmosphere in the State following the success of the consecutive bandhs called by the Left Front and the failure of the Congress (I) sponsored bandh on March 30. The initiative that the Congress (I) had taken in the political sphere before that date petered out after the violence on that day. The new Congress (I) set up is yet to consolidate its position.

Mr Promode Dasgupta thinks that there is no reason why the Front's move for an early election to be conducted by a caretaker Front Government in February-March would be turned down by the Centre. Since Charan Singh, who ran a minority Government at the Centre, was allowed to run a caretaker Government, he wondered why a majority Government in West Bengal would not be asked to do so.

Referring to seat adjustments among Left Front constituents for the Assembly election, he said that no constituent was prepared to sacrifice the "sitting seats." The new constituents would be allotted seats till now occupied by Opposition parties like the Congress (I) and Janata.

CPI-M DOCUMENT BASIS FOR '82 CONGRESS DEBATES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Sep 81 p 4

[Text] Calcutta--A CPM state committee "party letter" containing guidelines for inter-party discussions in the coming weeks, preparatory to the Congress in January, has brought out all the political and tactical issues which appear to have created divisions between the state leadership on the one hand, and the national leadership of the party, on the other, throughout last year.

The document, released by the state committee secretary, Mr. Promode Dasgupta, is based on the discussions held recently at the committee meeting. This will now form the basis for debates at various levels of the party, culminating in the state conference at the end of the year.

The document quotes the Jullundur party Congress political resolution to define "a broad platform" as one mainly to fight against authoritarianism, and "a left and democratic front" as a means of economic and political struggle on the basis of a definite programme. The party has been trying for years to forge this front.

The document then refers to the fall of the Janata government at the Centre, owing to the party's own disunity. The CPM supported the no-confidence motion against Mr. Morarji Desai's government, though Mr. Desai resigned even before there was voting on it. The CPM then supported the Charan Singh government. But after Mr. Singh's resignation, the "authoritarian Indira Congress" returned to power in 1980.

At every turn in national politics during this period, the CPM central committee had to take decisions. "It is now necessary to examine whether there was difficulty in giving effect to these decisions. It is also necessary to answer questions that naturally arise under such circumstances in the minds of the people."

As to the situation in West Bengal, the document reiterates the validity of the new outlook for a "struggle" in this state after the installation of the left front government, which in the main consists of strengthening the government "against the vested interests and reactionaries." "This struggle should never be of a character which creates an opportunity for the enemy to exploit."

CSO: 4220/7146

CONGRESS-I IN NORTHEAST TO BE REVAMPED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] Shillong, September 29--The Congress (I) high command has drawn up elaborate plans to revamp the party apparatus in the sensitive north-eastern region to meet the growing challenge of proclial and revivalist forces.

With its eyes trained on the forthcoming general elections due in about 16 months from now, the party high command has initiated the process of mending its fences.

While the moribund organisation in Assam and Tripura is sought to be revitalised by dissolving the pradesh Congress committees and appointing "ad hoc" executive bodies in their places, the main thrust of the rejuvenation programme will be on involving the local youth in the party activities.

With this aim in mind, it has been decided to hold the national council meeting of the Indian Youth Congress (I) and a convention of the Youth Congress (I) units of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh here on October 13 and 14.

All the national council members of the Indian Youth Congress (I), which includes over 40 MPs and all pradesh Youth Congress (I) presidents of the seven political units of the region, will participate in the national council meeting as well as the convention.

One thousand delegates from the seven pradesh Youth Congress (I) units of the north-eastern region will attend the convention. Besides the Congress (I) leaders of the north-eastern region, the convention will be addressed by Mr. C. M. Stephen, Union minister of communication, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, MP and president of the Indian Youth Congress (I), Mr. Rajiv Gandhi MP, Mr. Arun Nehru, MP and Mr. P. K. Thungon, Union deputy minister of rehabilitation.

The star attraction of the convention, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, will have a busy schedule during his visit to the north-eastern region. He will inaugurate free eye camps at Tura (Meghalaya) on October 11, Itanagar and Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh) and Mokikchung (Nagaland) on October 12.

The free eye camps in the four parliamentary constituencies of north-eastern India will be sponsored by the Sanjay Gandhi memorial trust as a part of their campaign to organise such camps in 100 parliamentary constituencies all over India.

CSO: 4220/7146

GUPTA REPORTS ON AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Sep 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] AITUC has expressed serious concern over the findings of the Jamshedpur riot inquiry committee which squarely blamed the RSS and the BMS along with the Jamaat-e-Islami for a major role in the violence there.

The general council met in the Capital from 23 to 25 September to take stock of the current political developments and the situation in the labour field since its 31st session held in Visakhapatnam last October.

AITUC general secretary Indrajit Gupta, MP, released the council's decisions to newsmen on Saturday.

In a resolution on the Jamshedpur riot inquiry report the general council noted that the 'findings of the commission are great lessons for all the secular forces, particularly those who advocate joint working with communal organisations.

When they were in power these organisations could totally paralyse the administration by rousing communal feelings, as it happened at Jamshedpur or previously at Ranchi during the days of the SVD government,' it added.

The resolution urged the Government to immediately act upon the recommendations of the report and 'launch prosecutions against all the named persons and organisations.'

It directed all AITUC affiliates to 'educate the working class about the findings of the commission.'

Giving a review of the deliberations at the meeting, Mr Gupta said it had been agreed that the working class should at the moment follow a 'two-pillar policy' to defend the country's security and territorial integrity with all its might as the most consistent patriotic force in the present complex regional situation, and fight with all its strength the retrograde internal policies of the Government aimed at curbing the workers' movement and curtailment of working class rights.

He said AITUC's leading activists at the meeting were all united in taking a balanced position on the whole. While they were not prepared to overlook the threat to our country's security, they could not accept the Government's moves

to deprive the working class of its legitimate rights in the name of the war danger.

Mr Gupta regretted that the Essential Services' Maintenance Act had been passed at a time when the mandays lost due to strike were on the decline and when the mandays lost due to lock-outs were on the rise. Moreover about 2,200 units throughout the country were closed in the name of being 'sick!' Therefore, it was the employer, not the worker, who was responsible for dislocation of production.

This thoroughly anti-worker legislation was enacted 'to gratify Indian and international monopolies,' he claimed.

Commenting on the dismal economic situation, he said the AITUC anticipated 'much worser developments in the coming days leading to further erosion of the worker's real wages and greater resort to repressive measures on the part of the Government. In this context, he underscored Communications Minister C. M. Stephen's threat to P and T workers and the move afoot to impound 50 per cent of the Government employees' DA.

'In our view a confrontation with the Government is approaching and we feel that the working class as the most organised contingent must be at the head of that confrontation,' he stressed.

The general council has, in this context, appealed to the President to refuse assent to the ESMA in view of the universal resentment of the working class to its enactment.

Mr Gupta said the general council was keen to see full implementation of the decisions of the Bombay trade union convention of eight trade union centres held last June. The programme decided there was to hold an all-India Protest and Demands Day on 3 November, followed by a massive rally of the working people before Parliament on 23 November. The AITUC unions would be in the forefront of these actions, Mr Gupta assured.

The council urged the workers to be prepared for an all-India one-day general strike, the date for which would be decided by the National Campaign Committee.

It criticised the US Administration for going in for the neutron bombs and arming Pakistan and urged the workers to be vigilant against an 'imperialist conspiracy to destabilise' the developing democracies.

CSO: 4220/7135

VENKATARAMAN SPEAKS AT WORLD BANK-IMF MEETING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Article by Warren Unna]

[Text] Washington, Oct. 1--Mr R. Venkataraman, Union Finance Minister, yesterday countered the Reagan Administration's challenge to multinational lending through the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the challenge to India's own borrowing needs in particular.

"Most of the low-income countries face a grim situation. Their terms of trade have deteriorated sharply at a time when their export markets are stagnant and protectionism has increased. Their combined current account deficit has risen from \$37 billion in 1978 to \$84 billion in 1980. And this has happened when financing has become much more difficult. Aid flows are stagnant, and in some cases declining, while commercial borrowing has been made prohibitively expensive.

"We live in a world of scarce resources which need to be efficiently used. But the search for efficiency is not likely to be promoted by assertion of simplistic solution...which assume that the private sector is always more efficient than the public sector," the Minister declared here in his formal address before the combined annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF. And later, before Indian reporters, he took on Mr Donald Regan, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, for publicly raising doubts over whether the IMF should go ahead and approve a loan of five billion Special Drawing Rights (the IMF's bookkeeping "paper gold" which is worth \$5.6 to \$5.7 billion) to India.

Mr Regan, who has been hinting at outright U.S. opposition to the loan, the largest the IMF ever has considered, yesterday told a Press conference he considered it "very large and very unusual...and we want our executive director (on the IMF board) to take a very close look at it."

"The Secretary of the Treasury cannot raise any objection, only the executive director when the IMF board considers its staff recommendations on November 9...I can't go on what appears in the newspapers as the official statement of the U.S. Government," Mr Venkataraman countered.

India is depending upon the loan to tide over its widening gap in foreign exchange reserves to steady its economy until export earnings increase and its dependency on costly foreign oil imports decreases (as India's own oil reserves begin to

produce). The Finance Minister explained that the larger half of the loan, 2.6 billion SDRs, is to be made available at 10 per cent interest through funds supplied to the IMF by Saudi Arabia and the remaining 40 per cent, 2.4 billion SDRs, will come from the IMF's own extended reserve fund at 6 per cent interest. The loan is to be for three years.

Mr Venkataraman also confirmed to reporters that India intends to seek a \$2-billion loan from the Asian Development Bank for a five-year period beginning in 1983, after the Asian Development Bank gets its projected capital increase. That loan money will be at 9 per cent to 10 per cent interest, he explained.

But Mr Regan, as well as President Ronald Reagan himself in his address on Tuesday, have been telling this gathering of Finance Ministers and central bank heads that the time has come for developing nations to become less dependent upon subsidized international loans and instead seek their luck from private sector banks at commercial interest rates.

"There is no single philosophy for all the world's needs," Mr Venkataraman told reporters. "Certain sectors, like infrastructure and irrigation, are not profitable for private investment and therefore are not attractive. But these are vital for development. So it is not a question of the private vs. the public sector, but of what is good for the individual country."

Mr Venkataraman said India had no objection to "co-financing"--the World Bank and the IMF collaborating with private banks in making loans--"just don't make it a condition and say that, unless there is co-financing, there will not be multinational financing."

The U.S. Secretary of the Treasury also has cast doubt on future U.S. contributions to the World Bank's International Development Association financing, the no-interest, long-term repayment loans of which India has been the single largest beneficiary (40 per cent) over the past several decades. There has been a clear hint that once the current sixth replenishment of IDA is completed, the USA will not come forward with any more funds for a seventh replenishment.

And even for IDA-VI, the U.S. Congress has been balking at fulfilling the commitments it already pledged, and the Reagan Administration has come up with a scheme to "stretch out" its financial contributions over a longer period.

IDA's peril was dramatized with the announcement yesterday that the industrial national deputies representing the other IDA donors now had become fed up with "carrying" the USA's delinquent contributions with advance pledges of their own and, for the remaining second and third-year instalments for IDA-VI, they now would make their money available only after the USA did. Since the USA is IDA's single largest contributor, and since IDA funding cannot flow until, by its charter, 80 per cent of the contributions are in to trigger the flow, this puts even the completion of the IDA-VI loan programme in jeopardy.

"As far as the developing countries are concerned, there is a sense of doom here that the multinational funding will be either reduced or be subjected to very hard conditions," Mr Venkataraman told reporters.

President Reagan's Administration has come to regard multinational organizations and their lending functions as performing the same kind of "charity" it has castigated America's own social institutions for conducting on the domestic scene. Mr Reagan's Republican Party traditionally has looked to the private sector as the cure-all for economic ills. It was the Democratic Party which started so many of the social welfare institutions that Mr Reagan's Administration now is attempting to dismantle. And it also was the Democratic Party which took the lead in organizing the Bretton Woods conference to start the World Bank and the IMF and help the world recover from World War II.

AP adds: Mr Venkataraman has said the crux of the problem facing oil-importing developing nations is financing balance of payments deficits. India has taken strong measures to reduce dependence on imported oil, he told the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank yesterday. But, he added, the effort needed time and money to take effect.

He said "it will be necessary to finance a substantial balance of payments deficit"--an apparent reference to India's current negotiations for the IMF's largest loan of about \$5.6 billion.

The chairman of the North-South Commission, Mr Willy Brandt, has criticized the Reagan Administration's insistence on curtailing aid to developing countries and called for immediate global negotiations on the matter, according to Tanjug.

He told reporters that he would soon send an open letter to the 22 heads of Government and State at next month's Cancun summit underlining the need for such negotiations. Mr Brandt said he expected the meeting to take concrete decisions or at least pass recommendations on the matter.

Reuter adds: Developing countries have renewed their call for more aid at the IMF and World Bank meeting despite strong U.S. opposition. Pakistan's Finance Minister, Mr Ghulam Khan, told the meeting that despite the economic lull, the industrial world would add more than \$200 billion to its combined income this year.

He said only one-tenth of one per cent of that amount was needed to fund the the World Bank's affiliate, the International Development Association. Supported by delegates from Latin America, Asia and Africa, he urged the industrial Powers to expand their funding of the organization and not to place all their faith in the effectiveness of the private sector.

The Indonesian Finance Minister, Mr Ali Wardhana, said a flow of resources into the less-developed countries was essential to keep their economies going and their people alive. "The survival of their economies and their people is dependent on concessional aid."

A further expression of concern about the worsening economic situation came yesterday at the United Nations. A statement from Foreign Ministers of more than 100 developing countries said a global debate on economic issues "continued to be jeopardized by one country."

The statement, a direct reference to the USA, was issued by the so-called Group of 77, now numbering about 120 countries. And in Mexico City, President Jose Lopez Portillo said humanity ran the risk of "crucifying itself" if next month's summit between rich and poor countries was unsuccessful.

Mr Mohsen Nurbakshah, Governor of Iran's Central Bank, said Iran had decided to remain a member of the IMF, Teheran Radio said today. The radio quoted him as telling the official Pars news agency: "We will use international institutions as a means to express the views of our country and also to help countries under foreign domination to free themselves."

Mr Nurbakshah said Iran would support efforts by the Palestine Liberation Organization to become a member of the IMF and World Bank.

CSO: 4220/7158

STATE IRRIGATION MINISTERS HOLD DELHI MEETING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 1--Almost all States have supported the Union Government's proposal for Central legislation to establish a National Water Development Council for speedy resolution of inter-State river water disputes and to frame a national water policy. The consensus emerged at the sixth conference of State Irrigation Ministers which ended here yesterday.

Rao Birendra Singh, Minister for Irrigation and Agriculture, who presided over the conference, told reporters that only Kerala and West Bengal had expressed reservations on the Centre's proposal. West Bengal wanted to know the details of the proposal which envisaged inclusion of all Chief Ministers as members of the Council. However, he clarified that it would continue to be a State subject and it was not the intention of the Union Government to encroach upon the rights of States.

The Centre would only be authorized to prepare plans for inter-State rivers. Under this agency, there would be five river basin commissions with State chief engineers as members.

The Union Minister said that the Centre's idea was to consult the States and there was no compulsion. The Centre would think of introducing legislation only if it was acceptable to all States. At the conference, the Centre's attempt was to remove the misgivings of dissenting States and its plea was to have a national perspective on the utilization of water.

The State Ministers' conference also approved of the Centre's proposal for establishing a Central Water Development Agency for investigation, studies and project formulation of inter-State rivers. All Chief Ministers would be its members, while engineers from States would be involved in making investigations and feasibility reports.

Kerala dissented on this proposal. The State's plea was that investigation should be left to the States and the Centre should assist them in this work.

Rao Birendra Singh said that the Centre had already written to State Chief Ministers seeking their consent for becoming members of the proposed agency.

The Minister laid stress on quick resolution of inter-State disputes. Many projects were held up. Some for more than 10 years, because of such disputes. The result was that only 15 per cent of the 1,440 million acre ft of available surface water was being utilized by constructing storages.

Nepal, he said had agreed to look for storage sites for the Pancheshwar, Karnali and the Rapti projects. "If these projects come up the flood problem in the eastern region would be solved," Rao Birendra Singh said.

Also, storage sites were being investigated in Arunachal. In case the exercise was fruitful, the ravages of Brahmaputra floods would also be taken care of partially.

A resolution on ground water development suggested that a committee be appointed to recommend organizational framework within the States to promote such development in the private sector and to monitor the programmes with effective linkages with lending agencies, Government agencies and farmers.

The resolution noted that there was considerable scope for ground water development in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

CSO: 4220/7158

STATE INDUSTRY MINISTERS MEET IN DELHI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] The one-day conference of the State Industries Ministers held in the Capital on Thursday to consider the report of the Sivaraman committee on development of backward areas proved an exercise in futility as sharply divergent views surfaced on most of the important recommendations of the committee.

Industry Minister N. D. Tiwari, while summing up the day-long discussion, remarked that there were differences in regard to the committee's recommendations on criteria for defining backward areas, selection of growth centres and related institutions for infrastructural development.

He merely expressed the hope that it would be possible to evolve a scheme generally acceptable and conducive to industrial dispersal.

The special meeting, attended by three Chief Ministers and Industry Ministers of 20 States and Union Territories, recognised that industrial dispersal was integral to the total strategy of industrial development.

The Sivaraman committee had in its report to the Planning Commission made several recommendations regarding the criteria for declaration of backward areas, the strategy of setting up of growth centres for infrastructure and industrial development and encouragement of entrepreneurship and small-scale and ancillary industries in backward areas.

On the question of suggested criteria of cut-off distance from a developed centre, it was pointed out that smaller States, tribal areas and hill areas may not find this criteria helpful. Further, backward pockets in the vicinity of developed centres in industrially advanced States like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamilnadu would be adversely affected by the application of this criteria.

There were also differences regarding the committee's suggestion to allocate growth centres in a 70:30 ratio between backward and developed States.

However, there was general welcome to the nucleus plant development programme and some of the participants requested the Centre to take early decision regarding incentive package to be made available to investors in nucleus plant locations.

Special problems of the North-Eastern States were also mentioned.

CSO: 4220/7162

DELHI STEPS UP WATCH ON TERRORIST GROUPS

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Sep 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 27--Security procedures are being tightened all over the country, under orders of the Central Government, for keeping a close watch on the activities and movements of suspected foreigners and their local accomplices connected with international or domestic terrorist organisations.

Indian intelligence agencies, working in concert with Interpol, have compiled lists of suspects, to be brought under surveillance on the basis of computer records of their antecedents.

The Government is also taking parallel action to step up vigilance against known criminals, communal elements, political activists and others prone to inciting violence.

Police experts in criminal investigation, counter-espionage and forensic sciences have been analysing every unusual case of arson, loot, sabotage, murder, subversion, smuggling, terrorism and even disinformation to detect possible patterns behind such offences which require further probing to track down the culprits.

Revival Seen in Many Countries

After a relative lull of over a year, there is a revival of international terrorism which is compelling many countries to take stringent action to forestall the danger, if possible, or face the threat with deterrent measures to combat it.

As a coordinating agency, Interpol pools and analyses all available information and alerts the countries concerned.

Threats of foreign-inspired terrorism take different forms in different countries depending on their political vulnerability, laxity in security and exposure to external subversion. At the internal level, terrorism assumes the dimension of insurgency and incitement to violence depending on the prevailing unrest in a particular region.

Border Security Force and other paramilitary units assist the army in preventing infiltration across the borders in places like Kashmir and the north-east region.

Security forces also cooperate with the local police in coping with insurgency in these places.

Threats From Outside

But, when it comes to international terrorism, it had to be handled by the internal and external intelligence services with the cooperation of the governments concerned. The External Affairs and Home Ministries have to act together in first assessing the nature of the threat and then dealing with it.

Apart from protecting the top leaders of the Government, the security agencies have to ensure that the diplomatic missions are not exposed to terrorism. They have also to prevent sabotage of essential services during times of external threat or internal subversion.

It is in this context that a serious view has been taken of the involvement of the Iraqi embassy staff in a shooting incident, since it has demonstrated how easily a foreign diplomatic establishment can bring firearms into the country without authorisation.

The Government proposes to send out a circular to all missions drawing their attention to the relevant provisions of the Vienna Convention and asking them to declare and surrender any unauthorised arms in their possession.

Arms Smuggling

The smuggling of arms into the country is being supplemented by the illicit manufacture of weapons which find their way into the hands of terrorists and other anti-social elements. According to police experts, hardly 10 per cent of such unlicensed weapons are detected while the other 90 per cent remains with unauthorised persons.

A disquieting feature is that a good many of the weapons captured from criminals are of foreign manufacture, which indicates a flourishing underground trade in unlicensed arms. The Government is taking steps to plug loopholes in the licensing procedures to ensure that owners of smuggled weapons do not regularise their possession by obtaining licences for them.

There will be stricter control hereafter of imports by diplomatic missions to prevent abuse of this privilege for bringing in unauthorised arms and ammunition. Only the sealed diplomatic pouch containing reports and other communications the host country cannot insist on inspecting. It can insist on a customs scrutiny of all other imports, although no duty can be levied on them.

CSO: 4220/7139

STATES TOLD TO PREPARE PLAN FOR RURAL PROJECTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Oct 81 p 15

[Text] New Delhi, October 1--The ministry of rural reconstruction has asked the states to prepare a shelf of projects, district-block wise, on a priority basis as a continuous process on a sufficiently dispersed scale, under the national rural employment programme.

The rationale is that its precursor, the food-for-work programme, which while creating numerous assets did not ensure the selection and execution of works on a systematic basis.

Besides, according to the government, the programme's dimensions having increased considerably, the concept of a shelf of projects is appropriate.

Basic Facilities

The states have been told that while preparing the shelf of projects, it is not necessary that it should fit into the annual or five-year plans. The basic idea is that it should cover all the minimum needs of the people with a view to providing them with basic facilities.

The number of works to be executed during a given year out of these shelf of projects, will depend on the resources being made available in each block or district.

The population of marginal farmers and farm labour on the one hand and the incidence of poverty on the other constitute the basis for allocation of resources. As much as 75 per cent weightage is given to the number of farm workers and marginal farmers in making the allocations.

Technical institutions like the IITs, agricultural universities and engineering colleges as also voluntary agencies will be associated in the preparation of the shelf of projects. A system for the periodic review of the projects and monitoring of the progress in execution will be evolved by the states.

A note circulated among participants in a government-sponsored workshop on the programme says that the maximum quantity of grains given to workers is now restricted to one kg per head per day. Some state governments insist that the quantity should be doubled.

Acknowledging the "tight position of grains stocks," the note says supply had been irregular or delayed.

The ministry has suggested that for smooth implementation of the programme, the states should build up their own stocks of coarse grains to meet the requirements of the programme. It is suggested that the state governments should procure grains like jowar, bajra, maize and ragi which are locally grown. This will also save the cost of transport.

The ministry has pointed out that since 50 per cent of the funds are now provided in the state budget and half of the remaining 50 per cent are made available to the states at the beginning of the year itself, the states could arrange the procurement of locally-available grains.

CSO: 4220/7156

CHAIRMAN REPORTS STATE TRADING CENTER OPERATIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 29--The State Trading Corporation achieved an all-time record turnover of Rs. 1,670 crores during 1980-81 compared with Rs. 1,529 crores in the previous year, thus registering a 9 per cent increase, Mr Abid Hussain, STC's chairman, said today.

He claimed at the end of the 25th annual general meeting that the turnover of the STC group comprising the STC and its five subsidiaries, namely the Projects and Equipment Corporation, State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation (including Central Cottage Industries Corporation) and Cashew Corporation has risen to Rs 1,875 crores compared with Rs 1,752 crores during 1979-80--an increase of 7 per cent.

During the year 1980-81, the corporation contributed to the Government exchequer Rs 3 crores by way of dividends and Rs 37.50 crores by way of taxes. In the 25 years of its existence, the corporation has contributed directly to the national exchequer Rs 231 crores as corporate taxes and Rs 24 crores as dividend.

Explaining the reasons for lower exports (Rs 440 crores against Rs 626 crores last year), Mr Hussain said this was due to a substantial decline (of nearly 48 per cent) in exports of mainly canalized items like sugar, molasses, castor oil and semi-processed leather. Export of sugar dwindled because of a ban on the export imposed by the Government and of molasses because of restricted availability in the domestic market.

Castor oil exports suffered a setback owing to lack of parity in the international and domestic prices. Exports of semi-processed leather were low, partly because of the Government's policy of discouraging semi-processed leather exports to make more leather available for value-added goods and partly because of a general slump in the market. Mr Hussain said the corporation laid more emphasis on the export of non-canalized items. For the first time during 1980-81, non-canalized exports exceeded canalized exports.

During the year, the corporation introduced a number of new items of exports and found new markets for a number of traditional items. It gave special attention to various promotional measures like making improvements in quality, grading and packaging and providing infrastructural facilities to export units. For example, supply of leather, soling materials and imported sole and elastic was arranged

for shoe-manufacturing units. Production of machine grade shoes was centrally organized to standardize the size and fittings.

The corporation played an important part in meeting the domestic needs of items like edible oils, newsprint, sugar, cement and white printing paper. Import turnover of the corporation touched new heights during the year, viz Rs 1,214 crores in 1980-81, against Rs 884 crores in 1979-80. The import of edible oils during the year reached a level of 1,100,000 tons against 840,000 tons in the previous year--to meet the increased requirements under the public distribution system, and meet the needs of the vanaspati units.

To handle the higher level of imports efficiently and maintain buffer stocks, the corporation maintained 400,000 tons of storage capacity in various port towns, and inland destinations. Import of sugar during the current year was 215,000 tons (against 181,000 tons in the previous year) of which 170,000 tons had already landed and the balance was expected to arrive in the next 10 days. There are no plans for import of further sugar. The landed price per kg of sugar is Rs 5.50.

CSO: 4220/7147

BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT GROUP ADVICE REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, October 1 (PTI)--The establishment of industrial development authorities with sufficient administrative and financial powers in identified industrial growth centres has been recommended by the Sivaraman committee for development of backward areas.

This, in the committee's view, would help in co-ordinated efforts to develop the infrastructure and planned growth of industries.

Some of the recommendations of the committee were outlined by the Union minister for industry, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, today while addressing state industry ministers meeting here to consider them.

The department of industrial development, Mr. Tiwari said was considering further measures for rationalising industrial approvals specially for units to be set up in the backward areas.

The Sivaraman committee had drawn the conclusion that while schemes for development of backward areas had induced investors to those regions, the results had been uneven. In particular, the committee had noted that availability of infrastructure, including skilled workforce, governed investment decisions.

The committee had stressed the importance of concentrating all promotional efforts by the Central and state agencies in certain identified growth centres with some available infrastructure. In the committee's view, this would be the quickest way to generate growth impulses in selected points within the concerned backward areas, which could be transmitted down the line.

For implementing the growth centre approach, the committee had suggested setting up of industrial development authorities at those centres with sufficient administrative and financial powers delegated to them for co-ordinated development of infrastructure and planned growth of industries.

Mr. Tiwari said while the final report of the committee was awaited, the present meeting had been called to consider its report on industrial dispersal in a wider perspective of evolving alternative strategies for development of backward areas in accordance with the plan objective.

According to the committee, Mr. Tiwari said, the industrial estate programme launched some years ago did not seem to have achieved its objective of relocating industries away from developed areas.

The licensing policy did not also possess sufficient positive content to direct investment to chosen backward areas resulting in congregation of industries at certain locations even within the backward areas with well-developed infra-structural facilities.

Solanki's Objection

The committee has also recommended a criterion of varying cut-off distances from the developed urban centres depending on the number of persons engaged in non-household manufacturing employment beyond which both Central subsidy and concessional finance should be equally applicable.

A bigger role had been suggested for the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and various Central and state agencies in the promotion and development of entrepreneurship in backward areas.

The committee has outlined the framework within which the financing of these arrangements could be shared between the Centre and the states on the one hand and between budgetary and institutional funds on the other.

Mr. Tiwari said industrial development of--backward areas must serve three purposes--dispersal of industry, diffusion of entrepreneurship and generation of employment and income to the local population. These should be the tests, which could apply while accepting or amending the recommendations of the committee.

Underlining the need for purposeful and concerted efforts by the state industrial administration in the development of backward areas, Mr. Tiwari urged the states to create effective monitoring cells to ensure utilisation of letters of intent and licences and ensure that industrial approvals were translated into projects, especially in backward areas.

He also suggested opening more industrial training institutes in backward areas to develop skilled manpower.

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Madhasinh Solanki, termed the committee's recommendation on dispersal of industrial units to backward areas as "rather arbitrary and unrealistic."

Mr. Solanki generally welcomed the committee's recommendation. But he did not agree with the recommendation that dispersal should be done on a cut-off distance of 50 to 150 km away from the industrial centres. This would leave more than three-fourths of Gujarat's underdeveloped tribal areas from the scope of industrialisation.

He pointed out his government's experience that taking large industrial units like a public-sector project to an underdeveloped area did not solve the problem of backwardness of the local area.

The Tamil Nadu industry minister, Mr. S. Tirunavukarasu, rejected the recommendations on dispersal of units and said that the recommendation would hit hard the state as only two or three of the 159 talukas in the state would be eligible to be called "backward."

"Tamil Nadu will be penalised only for having ensured industrial dispersal in the past," he said.

He felt that the committee should have noted that even within 30 to 40 km of major metropolitan centres, there were a number of villages as backward as in far away places.

CSO: 4220/7156

DACCA TREATMENT OF CHITTAGONG TRIBALS SCORED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Oct 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Escape From Terror"]

[Text] It is truly extraordinary that Dacca should deny that a large-scale influx of tribals has taken place into the Indian state of Tripura from the Chittagong Hills Tract, the south-eastern district of Bangladesh. They are there for anyone to see. About 15,000 of them have crossed over into the Indian border state in the last two weeks alone. They have been provided shelter in makeshift camps. This exodus is the result of a new wave of terror unleashed against the tribals--Hindus, Christians and Buddhists--by Muslims who have been trying to seize their lands. The authorities, needless to add, have been siding with the aggressors. Shanti Vahini, the organisation which has spearheaded a movement for tribal autonomy, has been involved in clashes not only with Muslim militants but also the security forces. Instead of trying to redress the tribals' legitimate grievances, the authorities have sought to crush them in the name of combating terrorism. Last year, a number of western correspondents visited the area. They returned with shocking accounts of atrocities, particularly against the Chakmas, the Buddhist tribals. The protests then voiced by foreign humanitarian organisations and the Buddhist countries in Asia appeared to have had a salutary effect in Dacca. But things have deteriorated once again for the minorities in Bangladesh.

The latest outbreak of large-scale violence in the Chittagong Hills Tract has followed troubles in the capital as well as other towns in the wake of the recent execution of 12 army officers convicted of being involved in the assassination of President Zia-ur-Rahman last summer. It is difficult to say whether there is any connection between the two developments. But it is possible that the executions represent the triumph of Islamic crusaders against the saner and more secular elements in Bangladesh. The executed officers were freedom fighters who had taken part in the 1971 struggle. But that apart, extremists have in recent weeks again felt free to renew their attacks on the non-Muslim tribals. The Bangladesh government has been guilty of a grave abdication of responsibility by failing to check this systematic violence against the minorities. It is compounding its irresponsibility by denying the fact of the exodus. New Delhi has been tolerant, in fact too tolerant. It has contented itself with drawing Dacca's attention to the flight of the tribals and asking it to stop it. This apparently does not impress those in charge of affairs in Dacca. India will need to act more firmly if it is not to be saddled with lakhs of tribal refugees. To begin with, it can ask the U.N. authorities to verify the facts. Once that is done, it must insist that Bangladesh makes it possible for them to return to their ancestral homes.

CSO: 4220/7151

OVERSEAS PROJECTS USING INDIAN TECHNOLOGY NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] Over 200 projects, based on Indian technology, are in production or in the process of implementation in 39 countries, according to the Indian Investment Centre (IIC) in Delhi, reports PTI.

Most of these have been set up with Indian equity participation. In a move to make Indian capabilities known more widely, the IIC has brought out a series of publications like "India Offers Technology" and "Technologies from India."

The publication provides information as to the areas where technologies are available in India and on Indian companies interested in providing such assistance.

Chairman and executive Director of IIC Harbans Singh points out that besides the 200 joint ventures, there has been a "phenomenal growth" of Indian consultancy services in the fields of design and process engineering, management and accounting.

The IIC has also published an investment guide for non-resident Indians listing all facilities provided by the Central Government and some of the State Governments to attract investments and remittances.

There are over six million Indians and persons of Indian origin abroad. Among them are thousands of professionals in various discipline as well as large number of skilled and semi-skilled workers employed in various countries.

The publication brings out the series of policy liberalisations effected in recent years and incorporates government's industrial licensing and foreign collaboration policies.

A guide to entrepreneurs "investing in India" has also been brought out by the IIC intended to give all essential information relating to licensing, collaboration, investment and other procedures, incentives and exchange control regulations.

CSO: 4220/7149

BACKGROUND ON 29 SEP HIJACK LEADER GIVEN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Sep 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Chandigarh, Sept 29--Mr Gajinder Singh, the leader of the hijackers, is one of the five members of "Dal Khalsa Panchayat," the supreme government body of young Sikhs.

Mr Singh, a handsome young man in his late twenties, is a graduate from a local college. He is married and has a six-month-old daughter. His wife is reported to be teaching in some private school at the Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) near here where Mr Gajinder Singh's residence is.

His mother Ranjit Kaur in mid-fifties and father Manohar Singh in mid-sixties live in Sector 23 of Chandigarh. The father has a small kirpana and general provision shop.

When this correspondent informed the father about his son's role in the hijacking, he appeared surprised but not shocked. The mother instead looked in complete balance.

Mrs Ranjit Kaur is a deeply religious woman and said that "her son had been always like that. He was a fanatic believer of 'Khalsa Raj.' Ever since he crossed matriculation he had been nurturing the idea of 'Khalistan.' He graduated from a local college and the thought of 'Khalsa Raj' was in him all the time," she told this correspondent.

The living room of his parental house looked to be the entire making of a man who was unbreakably wedded to an idea. The photo of Kapur Singh, former ICS and 'national professor of Sikhism' decorated the corner table in the room. A strip of photographs of Guru Nanak on one hand and Guru Gobind Singh on the other and two Sahibzadas between was another framed article to decorate the table.

Mr Gajinder Singh's sister Mrs Indermohan Kaur had contested the famous case pleading that Sikh women could not be forced to wear helmet while driving a two wheeler as per the law. The case in which SGPC president Gurcharan Singh Tohra, MP, had appeared as witness had been won by Mrs Indermohan Kaur leading to the exemption by the administration here and in Punjab from wearing helmet by all women driving two-wheelers, as the identification as to which lady was a sikh and which not was too tedious.

Slogans

Khalistan zindabad was among the slogans that decorated the main wall of the parental house of Mr Gajinder Singh. A sticker on almirah glass proclaimed 'tere sarian dukhan da daru--Raj Khalsa' (the treatment for all your ills--is Raj Khalsa). The almirah contained all sorts of books on religio-political matters dear to Dal Khalsa.

According to reports available from all over the State Mr Gajinder Singh had been staying for the last many days in room number 37 of Guru Nanak Niwas, an imposing mansion in the premises of SGPC controlled Golden Temple at Amritsar.

He left the place along with some others only five days back. The CID and police had instructions for his arrest but he managed to escape. He was last seen by an agency reporter along with Mr Sukhjinder Singh, MLA at Jullundur.

Another young man again a member of the five member top command of Dal Khalsa, Mr Harsimran Singh was also with him. Mr Harsimran Singh had been in service till about two months back in the Bhai Vir Singh Studies in Punjabi literature, headed by professor Vishwa Nath Tewari, politically close to the Congress-I.

Mr Harsimran Singh, who reportedly also included among those who hijacked the plane had, however, recently resigned his job. Mr Gajinder Singh on the other hand had been dismissed from Punjab Education Department as clerk when he wrote a book titled 'Panj Tir Hor' (five more arrows). The book had been banned by both the State and the Central Governments.

The CID file on Mr Gajinder Singh, by now a voluminous thing, reveals that he was an old supporter of demand for Sikh homeland.

These Dal Khalsa leaders had addressed a press conference here only a fortnight ago. They had been acting mostly from a gurdwara at Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), a small upcoming new industrial township adjoining Chandigarh but falling in Ropar district of Punjab.

The news that hijackers were Dal Khalsa people has benumbed the entire top civil and police administration.

CSO: 4220/7149

REPORT ON RAO 28 SEP SPEECH TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Sep 81 p 3

[Text] United Nations, Sept 28 (PTI)--External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao today expressed India's grave concern over the deteriorating security environment in the South Asia region.

While India does not find itself helpless in any way, we view with deep concern the possibility of the strategic calculations of outside powers engulfing countries in our region, he said.

Speaking during the general debate in the general assembly Mr Rao said that, on its part, India wanted to have strong and self-reliant neighbours. India was convinced that this was necessary in its own interests.

All the countries in the region faced similar economic problems and they should devote their energies towards development, he added.

Regional Cooperation

Some constructive steps have been considered in the direction of strengthening regional cooperation among the states of South Asia, Mr Rao said. He praised the late Bangladesh President Zia-ur-Rahman for the dedicated efforts he made in this direction.

India based its relations with neighbours on sovereign equality, recognition of mutuality of interests and perceptions.

India, he said, was also committed to the principles of the UN charter and non-alignment. Our twin commitments, in the field of foreign policy, are based on the objective of necessity to contribute in a positive manner towards the creation of a peaceful and cooperative world, he said.

There is a conscious and declared attempt to make relations with the developing countries a function of the East-West variable and to evaluate these relations in terms of the utility factor in the East-West game. Consideration of the material well-being, peace or stability of a country are being subordinated to those of strategic superiority and containment, Mr Rao said in a conference to the world situation.

Referring to Afghanistan, Mr Rao said India had unequivocally opposed the presence of foreign troops in any country.

For us, he said, this includes Afghanistan, whereas presumably to some other countries, this should apply only to Afghanistan.

He hoped the UN Secretary General's request to start a dialogue would succeed. The people of Afghanistan had a big stake in his success.

On Kampuchea, Mr Rao said, India would join in all constructive efforts aimed at seeking a peaceful solution of the problems of South East Asia.

It was necessary to reassure the Kampuchean people that their erstwhile persecutors--the Pol Pot regime--would never be allowed to return and unleash once again a reign of terror upon them.

He also objected to the presence of the Pol Pot delegation in the Assembly. It is a great irony of the times that the same despotic regime should bring the stench of their genocidal acts into this august chamber and to represent, as it were, their own victims, in a bizarre inversion of the principles of the Charter," he added.

Regarding the West Asia, he reaffirmed that a just and comprehensive solution could be found only through the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem city and through the exercise of their inalienable rights by the Palestinian people.

Referring to the Namibia problem Mr Rao urged the implementation of the UN independence plan as contained in the Security Council resolution.

He expressed India's solidarity with the South West Africa People's Organization and pledged moral and material support to it in its liberation struggle against South Africa.

CSO: 4220/7144

RESOLUTIONS OF AITUC COUNCIL PARLEY REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress wants further strengthening of trade union unity at all levels in order to meet the rising attacks on trade union rights mounted by the Government of late.

This is highlighted in one of the resolutions adopted by the general council whose meeting was held in the Capital from 23 to 25 September.

The AITUC hailed the Bombay Convention of Trade Unions and the programme for united movement of the working class it has chalked out. But it described as "unfortunate" the fact that "in some States the unity seen at the Bombay Convention has not been fully reflected due to certain continuing differences." In this context, it appealed to all unions, organisations and federations to shed their reservations and play their full role in achieving all-round unity "without which we cannot succeed in the struggle to win our demands."

AITUC general secretary Indrajit Gupta said his organisation was keen to approach the INTUC as well notwithstanding the fact that the INTUC leadership had been extending support to the Government.

Analysing the Essential Services' Maintenance Act, the general council observed: "When the definition of 'strike' has been made so wide that any worker who for genuine reasons is not able to work is brought under its ambit, when the police are given such sweeping powers to arrest any worker without warrant and on suspicion, the diabolical intentions of the Government to beat down the working class and snatch away its rights are crystal-clear considering that the Act provides for severe punishment of summary dismissals, huge fines and imprisonment for one year, this measure is more intended to strike terror in the working class using the arm of law, instead of governing industrial relations in a proper manner."

On the recommendations of the Ramanujan Committee set up to review the working of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, the council strongly opposed the proposal for decentralisation and removal of departmentally run public sector units out of the EPF Act's purview. However, it conveyed full support to the other recommendations unanimously endorsed by the central TU organisations.

It further called for amendment of the Minimum Wages Law of 1948 to bring in a number of employments not covered, make Cost of Living allowance mandatory, keep the minimum wage in no case less than Rs 400 and in the range of Rs 400 to Rs 500 depending on the nature of employment, enforce the Act's implementation with a strong hand meting out stringent punishment in case of non-implementation and mal-implementation.

The general council called upon the entire trade union movement as well as peace-loving democratic forces to condemn the US move to arm Pakistan with latest F-16 fighters, tanks, etc. and exhorted them to rally in defence of peace in this area.

It also pleaded for immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Rath Committee for correction of consumer price index based on 1960, a campaign for amending the Gratuity Act, launching prosecutions against all persons and organisations named in the Jamshedpur riot inquiry commission report, minimum bonus to all with raised quantum and widest possible movement against the US decision to manufacture neutron bomb.

CSO: 4220/7140

INDIAN COOPERATION WITH DPRK REPORTED WIDENING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Sep 81 p 3

[Text] Pyongyang, Sept 27 (PTI)--Indo-North Korean cooperation in economic, technical and cultural fields, which began on a modest scale a few years ago, is gradually widening both in scope and dimension.

This is becoming a reality as North Korea, makes determined efforts to increase industrial potential apart from liberalising some orthodox concepts of the past thanks to its joining the non-aligned movement in 1975. North Korea is a member of the coordinating bureau of non-aligned countries.

Pyongyang recently hosted one of the largest international conferences at which 81 non-aligned and other developing countries participated in a symposium on food and agricultural production besides a dozen major international organisations. It demonstrated clearly that the country is keen to embrace the outer world after remaining in seclusion for over two and a half decades.

"There has been a vast improvement in our relations, and it is still increasing," India's ambassador in Pyongyang Raj Krishan Manucha, told PTI recently.

The process of coming together of both countries appears to have received an impetus from the meeting of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and North Korean President Kim Il Sung at late Yugoslav President Tito's funeral at Belgrade last year.

Since then several high level delegations visited either countries, and there is increasing evidence of identity of view between India and North Korea on many issues.

An Indian economic delegation led by Minister for Agriculture Rao Birendra Singh, visited here in November, while secretary (east) of the External Affairs Ministry Eric Gonsalves, was in Pyongyang in June last year.

CSO: 4220/7140

INDO-GDR FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ENDS GDR VISIT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Oct 81 p 3

[Text]

BERLIN, Oct 1—An eleven-member Indo-GDR friendship delegation headed by Mr R P Yadav MP left for India yesterday after a 14-day tour of the GDR.

In a statement, the delegation said they 'saw flourishing democracy and all-round progress in various spheres of life in the GDR'. They felt after visiting factories and agricultural co-operatives that production has increased tremendously without an increase in the number of workers engaged. Though mechanisation has reduced the number of workers, yet there is no unemployment in the GDR, the statement added.

Members of the delegation felt that the exchange of experiences between the peoples of India and the GDR in various spheres of life may prove useful for both the countries.

They appreciated the anti-imperialist and anti-racist policies of the GDR. The statement condemned the US global strategy of suppressing national liberation movements and denounced the US decision to produce neutron bomb, its build-up around Diego Garcia and the Indian Ocean and arming of Pakistan.

The statement issued in Berlin yesterday was signed by Mr R P Yadav MP, Prof A K Sanyal, Prof

K K Nigam, Prof C P Shambri, Mr Y K Sobharwal, Mr Mohan Pungalia, Mr V P Raghavachari, Mrs M M Sehgal, Mr Alka Roy and Miss Lalish Ram Sarojini all social workers and Mr B K Pal, advocate.

The delegation was received by GDR-India friendship committee president and State Secretary Kurt Loeffler besides other officials. Members of the delegation called on Indian ambassador Krishnan Raghunath.

Members of the delegation visited, besides other places, Berlin, Gera, kindergartens, pioneer camps, printing works, rural health centre, Goethe house in Walmer and world famous Dresden art galleries.

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS SITUATION IN PUNJAB

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Sep, 1, 2 Oct 81

[Article by K. K. Katyal]

[30 Sep 81 p 8]

[Text]

WHAT is the Bhindranwale phenomenon in Sikh politics? And how strong is the extremists' demand for a separate Sikh State, Khalistan? Is there a linkage between them? The two, it can be said after a six-day study tour of Punjab are the outcome of different motivations and may converge now or later. But there is a technical possibility of their following separate, if not conflicting courses.

Then there are the Akali party, of which the former Punjab Chief Minister, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, is a leading light, and a splinter group, led by the former President of the united party, Mr. Jasdev Singh Takwandi, which do not hesitate to draw political advantage from the two thought currents, without identifying themselves with either. Why is it so? Sikh affairs are indeed, a jumble of enigmas.

To take the Khalistan demand first, it was clear that the Government had turned a Nelson's eye to its protagonists in the belief that they may get some respectability out of official attention, even though negative. They however made use of this indifference to step up their activities which were confined to a small band.

Sitting in a second-storey room in Nanak Niwas, the pilgrims' sarai in the Golden Temple complex at Amritsar, Mr. Balbir Singh Sandhu gave me some details of the campaign. He called himself General Secretary of the National Council of Khalistan of which Dr. Jagjit Singh, a former Akali leader, now abroad, was mentioned as President. Under secret instructions from him, he said, they had organised rallies, hoisted their flag on Aug. 15, circulated

'Khalistan currency' and sent letters with Khalistan stamps to senior officials and politicians in authority.

"Republic of Khalistan"

This was the initial phase of the campaign and therefore comprised symbolic action but he promised concrete steps later.

Mr. Sandhu gave details of the next phase including the plan to set up a "radio station", as he worked on the stove in a corner of the room to prepare tea for me. "The next time you come here, you will be an honoured guest of the 'Republic of Khalistan', he said, as he handed over a cup to me. "You write this in your paper", he said seeing my puzzled look. "Even if I write, people won't believe me—and you", I replied. Why not? he shot back.

Who is Dr. Jagjit Singh? A small-town medical practitioner of Hoshiarpur district and a middle-rank Akali, he, in the mid-sixties, became a Minister in a Cabinet of defectors, supported by the Congress. That Government did not last long but the doctor did not relish the idea of being in the political wilderness and instead went abroad to begin the campaign for a separate State. Barring the two-year period of the Janata rule when he was in India, he has since remained in foreign countries, establishing contacts with the Sikhs settled abroad and getting their support, moral and material.

In another room of the Sarai sat five or six young men—members of the Dal Khalsa, a PLO-type organisation, as they put it. They, too, had the same objective but concentrated on the youth, they said. "We do not know who killed Late Jagat Narnai but whoever did it, did a magnificent

job, was their comment on the recent developments, as they detailed their tactical approach.

They knew, said one of them Mr. Satnam Singh (35), they would not be able to achieve their objective without armed struggle and without confrontation with the Government. "And in this, we see no harm in seeking the support of other countries, who may be willing to help us." There would be nothing wrong "in our seeking and others extending help to us. Did not the Indian Government interfere in the affairs of Pakistan before Bangladesh was formed," said another.

Del Khalsa does not have an elaborate organisational network and its activities are conducted by a five-member "presidium". Mr. Satnam Singh is one of them.

There was a small group of activists it was conceded but they, as Mr. Sandhu also said earlier, "had been effective in setting into motion the new thought currents" and in "influencing the minds of the Sikh masses." They were aware they were beyond the reach of the law enforcement authorities. The Sera is a part of the holy complex, and police do not enter the Gurdwara lest it should inflame the religious sentiments of the Sikhs.

None of the organised Sikh parties has adopted the Khilafat pedom. Some of them disown it feebly but none denounces the concept firmly, categorically. On the other hand, their leaders tend to explain the rationale of the extremist plea with an implied threat: "You concede our demands, otherwise the extremists would carry the day." In Sikh politics, moderation is equated with cowardice and even those who profess to be opposed to Khilafat take care to see that they are not dubbed as weaklings.

Some propound the theory that the Sikhs are a separate nation, others say they would seek associate membership of the UN and still others talk of "Deesh Punjab" or a Sikh homeland with nominal links with the Centre.

Anandpur Sahib resolution

The organised groups swear by the resolution adopted by the united Akali party in October 1973 at Anandpur Sahib near Punjab which, because of its vague wording lends itself to several interpretations. Its central point is the demand for a State where the Panth's ascendancy is ensured. It means different things to different groups to suit their political convenience from time to time.

Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale represents an essentially religious force—even in Sikh affairs where religion and politics are mixable, he confined himself to his field though occasional interest in the other side could not be avoided. He is the head of a Takasi or mint, the name

given to the institution which is concerned with religious teachings, and interprets the Sikh scriptures in what is regarded as the only correct or pure form, just as a mint turns out pure coins as against base ones, produced clandestinely.

A devout Sikh, the Sant, at 35, is a well-known figure because of his crusading zeal to ensure the purity of the Sikh religion. A fundamentalist, one could say. He sees the Nirankari sect as the gravest threat to the Panth and does not mince words in expressing his resolve to crush them. Religious teaching is his wholetime job, though married and with two children he, according to the norms that go with his position, has virtually renounced family life.

He visits his family members along with his disciples who too have accepted the same rigid discipline. Because they keep arms as part of the Sikh tradition, they are confused with a militant sect, the Nihangs.

When it was first set up, "Takasi" was located at a village near Moga, called Bhinder, from which it derived the appellation "Bhindranwale." It was later shifted to the present location, Chowk Mehta in Amritsar district.

Not on best of terms

Sant Bhindranwale had not been on the best of terms with the Akalis, when they were in the Government or out of it. At the time of a fierce clash between his followers and the Nirankaris—on April 13, 1978, the holy day of Baisakhi—he took a senior Akali leader, Mr. Jivan Singh Umranangal, then Revenue Minister in the coalition Government, to task publicly.

At a massive religious congregation in the Golden Temple complex that day, he snatched the mike from Mr. Umranangal and demanded official action to disperse the Nirankari convention, being held in another part of the city and failing to get an assurance, led a march to the "enemy camp."

In the confrontation that followed, his disciples suffered heavily and the memory of that day—of the Akali Government's inaction, in his view, to protect the Panth from the Nirankari attack—ranks in his mind even today.

Last year, the Sant nominated his right-hand man, the son of his predecessor, Mr. Amrik Singh, to confront Mr. Umranangal in the prestigious elections to SGPC (Shromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee). Even otherwise, the Sant threw his weight against the Akalis and, in the process, was backed—hold your breath—by the Congress @ or a section of it.

Whether it was part of a conscious policy decision or the tactical game of

some in the ruling party, the impression prevailed that the Congress (I) sought to build the Sant as a counter to the Akalis, in the same way as Pratap Singh Karon, a former Chief Minister, gave a boost to Sant Fateh Singh in the early Sixties to contain Master Tara Singh, the inexpressible Akali leader whose challenge could not be met otherwise.

Karon's calculations were upset as his protégé not only eclipsed the Master but posed a serious threat to the Government. Some such thing seems to be happening now.

Sant Bhindranwale shot into prominence with stunning suddenness, much to the discomfort of the State Government—and the Akalis. The Akali Dal, the extremist faction in any case, backed Sant Bhindranwale to the hilt during the pre-surrender period with emotion-packed assurances of a do-or-die struggle in the cause taken up by the latter.

But are the Akalis happy in their heart of hearts over the emergence of a new force? Opinions differ. Some say they may go slow in their championship of the Sant.

Congress fervour

Not all among the keen observers of the Punjab scene rule out the possibility of a renewed Congress fervour for this new force. Not all are prepared to believe that the Congress (I)'s links with the Sant are totally snapped carry conviction. What else is the meaning of the presence at the Chowk Mehta congregations of Jathedar Santokh Singh, President of the Delhi Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee and his emotional affirmation of solidarity with the Sant before he offered himself for arrest? The Jathedar recently captured the Delhi Gurdwara body with the help of the Congress (I) elements through an election process which the Akalis believe was rigged.

It was this case of Governmental interference in the religious affairs of the Sikhs that chagrined the Akalis into planning for a "Dharam Yudh" or a holy war. Could they afford to ignore the presence of the Jathedar in the Bhindranwale camp and the pointers it threw up?

It is wrong to lump together the many centres of the Sikh politico-religious power. It is again wrong to treat the main Akali party and Sant Bhindranwale and his cult as one; or to regard the Sant and the pro-Khalistan activists as products of the same phenomenon; or to suggest that Mr. Talwandi is a bosom friend of the protagonists of a Sikh State. Wrong even to regard the Akali Dal as a compact, unified force.

Akali affairs deserve a detailed exposition. The party at best is an uneasy coalition

of moderates, led by Mr. Badal, and not-so-moderates of which the President of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra, is the rallying figure and functions under the nominal leadership of the party chief, Sant Harbhand Singh Longowal. Mr. Badal and Mr. Tohra make no secret of their dislike for each other through their actions while taking care to present a facade of unity.

Mr. Badal is clear that the Sikhs, constituting 56 per cent of the population, have no chance of capturing political power without the support of a section of the Hindus, and that the Akalis could not have ruled the State in 1977-79 had they not been backed in the post-Emergency elections by the Janata Party (which in Punjab had the then Jan Singh group as the main component) and shared power with the latter in a composite Government.

Inter-communal approach

In his opinion, there is no escape from the inter-communal approach, if the Congress is to be effectively countered. Of course, a section of Mr. Badal's associates, led by a former Speaker, Mr. Ravinder Singh as its spokesman, would prefer a deal with the Congress (I) and had worked towards this end on the eve of the Assembly elections in June last year. That its efforts did not click was a different matter.

Mr. Badal's rivals in the party taunt him for his obsession and craze for office and his readiness, as they put it, to sacrifice the interests of the community in the pursuit of political power. In this battle, Mr. Tohra is normally ranged against Mr. Badal at times with the support of Sant Longowal, at times, without it.

Was it a coincidence that Mr. Badal did not visit Chowk Mehta while Mr. Tohra and others made a beeline towards the place last week? Left to himself, Mr. Badal would have attended the Kirya ceremony of Late Jagat Narain. Did he refrain from doing so because of the fear that he would be misunderstood by Mr. Tohra and others?

The party stands by the Anandpur Sahib resolution which, whatever else it might say, does not call for secession. And yet there are suspicions about the Akali intentions in the minds of not only their political rivals but among the people generally in and outside Punjab. The Akalis blame it on the Congress (I). "To keep itself in power the Congress (I) dubs us secessionists. Its idea is to create a scare among the Hindus and to keep them and the Sikhs divided for its political gains," Mr. Badal says.

This may be one side of the coin; but the other is different. The Akalis have refrained from condemning the secessionists unequivocally while the idioms, used by its extremists, are only slightly different from those employed by the votaries of Khalistan. Even while disapproving secessionist activities the party puts the blame

on those responsible for the present climate of discrimination against the Sikhs, because of which "some misguided persons" talk of secession. This is not the same thing as unequivocal denunciation of Khalistan. Secondly, the Akali-controlled SGPC allows the extremists to use Gurdwaras as sanctuaries.

All this and the talk of discrimination by Sikh politicians of various hues, a section of intellectuals and others add up to silent endorsement of the extremists' platform. That is a big danger. The situation could become still more difficult if religious fundamentalists join hands with secessionists.

Akali Dal Postulates

THE following is the English text of the Anandpur Sahib resolution translated from the Punjabi by an Akali senior, Mr. Amar Singh Ambiani.

(A) Postulates: The Akali Dal is the only body which represents and is duly authorized to represent the collective will of the Sikh Panth—a society grounded in certain postulates concerning certain mutual human inter-relationships, the condition of man and his relationship with reality.

These postulates are enshrined in the triad of the Commandments of Guru Nanak—"Kut karā, nam japō, wand chhīkō" (meaning that in his relation to society man must work and share the fruits of his labour with others and in his relation to reality he must try to have communion with the essence of things). Coupled with this triad is the trifacial doctrine of Guru Gobind Singh laying down that (a) the individual is the true source of power, (b) that he is an end in himself and must never be enslaved or exploited by others, and (c) that prosperity and happiness, in an ever increasing measure, are the bright light and destiny of mankind.

General Aims: The Akali Dal shall be active and committed to the realisation of the following aims:

(i) Propagation of the Sikh way of life and removal of alien and un-Sikh thinking.

(ii) Maintaining the feeling of a separate independent entity of the Sikh Panth and creation of an environment in which the "national expression" of the Sikhs can be full and satisfactory.

(iii) Driving away poverty and want and efforts to increase production in order to set up a just system in place of the present unjust distribution of wealth and exploitation.

(iv) Banishing illiteracy, untouchability, social inequities and caste-based discrimination which are contrary to the great teachings of the great Gurus.

(v) An end to the causes of ill health and diseases, and condemnation and banning of narcotics and other intoxicants to promote proper physical growth of people in order to prepare the nation for national defence.

Religious Aims: (i) Bringing about a new all-India Gurdwara law which will ensure a more efficient and meaningful management of places

of worship and community centres than at present and helping in the achievement of re-integration of ancient Sikh preaching orders (such as Udasis and Nirmales) into a dynamic Sikh society without encroaching upon their financial resources and property.

(ii) Bringing all the gurdwaras of the world under the banner of one organisation to make the Sikh religious procedures and proceedings uniform throughout the world and pooling and making effective the appropriate resources of religious propagation.

(iii) Obtaining free and self-regulated access to and control of Sri Nankana Sahib and other Sikh sacred places from which Sikhs have been torn asunder in the recent past.

Political Aims: The political aims of the Panth are definitely ingrained in the orders of the 10th Guru, in the pages of Sikh history and in the perspective of the Khanda Panth, the purpose of which is the pre-eminence of the Khanda.

To give the "bright light" of the Khanda a practical shape, creation of the necessary environment and achievement of a political constitution are the basic ideological planks of the Akali Dal.

To achieve this end the Akali Dal will use all possible means and struggle so that:

(A) The areas which have deliberately and internationally been kept out of Punjab—Delhousie in Gurdaspur district, Chandigarh, Pinjore, Kalua and Ambala, Una tehsil (Hoshiarpur district), the Nisargam region, Shahbaz and Guhla blocks of Karnal district, Sirsa tehsil, Tohana sub-tehsil and Rada block of Hissar district, six tehsils of Ganganagar district in Rajasthan and other contiguous Punjab-speaking and Sikh areas—should be immediately included in Punjab and made into a single administrative unit wherein Sikhism and the interests of the Sikhs can be especially protected.

(B) In "New Punjab" the authority of the Centre should be confined to the defence of the country, foreign relations, communications, railways and currency. All the residuary subjects (departments) should be under the jurisdiction of "New Punjab" which should have the right to frame its own Constitution for these subjects.

In the Central subject "New Punjab" should contribute its share of the necessary finances in the ratio of its members in the Lok Sabha.

(C) Suitable constitutional and political safeguards should be provided to the Sikhs and other communities residing in other States to protect them from discrimination.

(D) The Akali Dal will strive to make the Constitution of India federal in the real sense and ensure that the authority and representation of all the States are equal at the Centre.

(E) The organisation considers the present foreign policy (framed by the Congress Government) "defective, ineffective and dangerous for the country and harmful for mankind." The Akali Dal will support a foreign policy based on peace and helpfulness to the cause of promotion of national interests, especially the cause of friendship with the goodwill for the neighbouring countries where Sikhs live and their sacred places are situated. The Dal is firmly of the view that its foreign policy should not be subservient to the foreign policy of any other country.

(F) To obtain justice for Sikhs and other servants of the State and Central Governments and raise an effective voice and wage a struggle in the event of injustice done to any of them are special plank of the Akali Dal programme.

(G) The Akali Dal will specially work for the maintenance of the traditional position of the Sikhs in the three wings of the defence forces and try to ensure that the demands and requirements of the Sikhs in the defence services get the required attention of the Parsh. The Dal will also seek to make the Kirpan part of the uniforms of the Sikhs in the defence establishments.

(H) The organisation considers it its primary duty to obtain proper facilities for the rehabilitation of the former members of the defence forces, in civil life, to organise them for safeguarding their rights and self-respect and to make their voice effective.

(I) The party is of the view that all men and women, who have not been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude by a court of law, have the right to possess small arms, such as revolvers, pistols, guns, rifles or carbines, and no licence is necessary. Registration would suffice for their possession.

(J) The Akali Dal wants a ban on drinking and smoking at public places.

[1 Oct 81 p 8]

[Text]

THE people of the Western border region of Amritsar, Jullundur and other places live to repeat a cliché in two states these days—in the State of Punjab and in a state of turmoil.

The ugly events sparked by the surrender to the police of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale threatened to unleash an orgy of violence. That situation was happily averted but beneath the present calm surface, there is tension and uncertainty and a thoughtless move from any side, be it the Government or a political party could cause complications.

More ominous is the new militancy that showed itself in the shoot-outs in two cities. The culprits responsible for these incidents as also for the murder of Lala Jagat Narain, a veteran political figure and editor of a widely-read chain of papers, are yet to be apprehended (with the exception of one suspect). All this has, naturally, shaken the confidence of vast sections.

Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Punjab on the eve of her trip abroad could not have been timed better. It helped to reverse somewhat the prevailing trends and to evolve an all-party consensus on the need for maintaining peace and communal harmony. It would be a mistake to believe that her job ended with that. On the other hand, it was the beginning of what promises to be a long haul.

The present situation has several disturbing features some of which however look larger than life for various reasons. At the same time there is a lot positive, that

could be built upon. Here is one instance. At Tarn Taran the scene of one of the two shooting incidents regarded to be handiwork of Sikh militants, the co-religionists of the attackers willingly joined the protest hartal by the Hindus and were in the forefront in offering blood for the injured.

Such manifestations of goodwill, commendable no doubt, are no insurance against determined fanaticism and violence.

New militancy

A brand new phenomenon, the militancy of what from all accounts is a tiny section of the Sikh youth contrasts sharply with the spirit of sacrifice and service of the earlier generation. What after all was the extreme step, threatened by Master Tara Singh and Sant Fateh Singh, who strode the Akali stage in the Sixties, to achieve their goal of a Punjabi-speaking State? That they would fast unto death or immolate themselves.

The militants have yet to be identified. No organised party owns them or approves of their action (there is no public denunciation either). Though they might have succeeded in creating a scare, the day-to-day life was not disrupted and there was normal turn-out of shoppers in the bazars and business centres of Jullundur and Tarn Taran two days after the shootings.

The offices of newspapers, owned by Lala Jagat Narain, the slain leader, functioned normally but had security guards outside. Editors of Jullundur papers, whether supporters of the Akali Dal, Anya Samaj or others, had police escorts for protection.

Police possess guarded official buildings and manned improvised check-posts on the main approaches to the city.

Patrolling by the Punjab police, assisted by the Border Security force and the Provincial Armed Constabulary from U.P. was noticeably intensive.

Schools and colleges remained closed last week. Apart from ensuring peace, the police presence served another wholesome purpose. The Government became the bigger target of mischief-makers and to that extent the communal tension subsided.

Civil's task

The task of the Punjab Chief Minister, Mr. Darbara Singh, was unenviable. It was not easy to nab Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, especially when he became a symbol of religious fervour, a somewhat mythical figure who gave a slip to the combined forces of Punjab and Haryana police, despite the care taken by them in working out a joint strategy.

The police could not keep track of the Sant's movements, after the warrants for his arrest had been issued and he was able to motor down undetected from his abode in Haryana to his headquarters at Chowk Mehta in Amritsar district, some 300 km away. But even if it were aware of his movement could it have apprehended him without bloodshed as the Sant had a lorry-load of armed supporters for escort?

Hypothetical issue

That in any case became a hypothetical issue after the Sant announced his intention to surrender to the police at the place and time of his choosing. This was so despite the conflicting claims on what led to the surrender—while the authorities maintained they saw to it that he got the right advice, the Sant's top aide, Mr. Amrik Singh, was categorical that the arrest would not have been possible without our cooperation, offered voluntarily and without any pressure.

The accounts one heard of the post-surrender happenings left no doubt about two points—one, that some miscreants among the crowd that had collected at Chowk Mehta were primarily responsible for the trouble and two that the police had not only been tactless but failed to take into account the mob psychology in an emotion-charged atmosphere.

Sanctuaries

The Sant episode and the events before and after it would make it difficult for the Punjab Government to continue with the old approach of benign neglect of the activities of the extremists. Also it may not be possible to defer action on certain basic issues, for instance, ways to deal with those who challenge the authority of the Government, but use Gurdwaras—outside the reach of the police, because of political considerations—as sanctuaries, or to delay a well-considered policy on arms.

The present situation creates strong compulsions for a Central move to deal with the complaints of discrimination against Singh. Whether the grievances are genuine, and whether or not there are political motives behind the Akali campaign (the Akalis did not raise these issues that insistently, when they were in power), New Delhi cannot say the problem was non-existent. Going by Mrs. Gandhi's observations during her brief visit to Chandigarh, a Central initiative appeared on the cards.

Mr. Darbara Singh has already written to the SGPC President Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra, suggesting steps by the Gurdwara Managing Committee against the use of places of worship by those wanted by law. Mr. Tohra's reply was considered encouraging—he was not aware of anti-national elements taking refuge in Gurdwaras and would like to be told of specific cases. Mr. Tohra said implying that he had the same ideas on the use of places of worship as the Government. May be there was a catch in what the Government said or what Mr. Tohra meant. But the ground was now set for pursuing the issue to a logical end.

Arms control

The control of arms is not an exclusive problem of Punjab though, here, it is more complicated because of the possibility of flow from across the border. Statistically, the situation may not be grave, there being only 2.15 lakh licensed arms with a population of 1.70 crores or less than 15 per cent. But a precise estimate of unlicensed arms with the people or the flow from Pakistan is not possible which naturally creates problems for the authorities. Also the weapons, both licensed and others are not evenly distributed among various sections. Individuals with militant leanings, political extremists have a disproportionately larger number.

Any examination of the Sikh grievances can only begin with a scrutiny of the demands put forward by the Akali Dal apart from other channels through a memorandum given to the Government after the recent rally in Delhi. These include the transfer of Chandigarh and contiguous Punjab-speaking areas of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan to Punjab, direct transmission by radio of religious hymns from the Golden Temple, Amritsar, permission to Sikhs to carry Kirpans during travel by Indian Airlines and Air India, transfer of Bhakra-Nangal headworks to Punjab, revocation of the "rigged" elections of the Delhi Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee and an all-India legislation for the management of Gurdwaras throughout the country on the Punjab SGPC pattern. It is clear that even if a dialogue begins, an amicable settlement would not be easy.

Hindu impact, film

The problem posed by the Dal Chakra, the extremist youth group, or the protagonists of Khalistan, owing influence

to Dr Jagjit Singh falls in a different category which obviously would not be resolved even if the Akali demands were to be met by the Government.

According to the Dal Khalsa spokesman "Hindu imperialism" posed a major threat to the Sikh religion. Mr Prakash Singh Badal was their enemy number one. So strongly did he feel about the moderate views of the former Chief Minister.

By "Hindu imperialism" was meant attempts to project the Sikh Gurus as worshippers of Hindu Gods and similar other interpretations of the Sikh scriptures which, it was alleged, were intended to dilute the Panthic entity. They singled out the Hindu press of Jullundur for attacks on this count.

During Mrs. Gandhi's Chandigarh visit, Opposition parties complained against the

way the Home Ministry and the Punjab Government worked at cross-purposes. There was a reference to the none too cordial relations between the Chief Minister, Mr Darbara Singh and the Union Home Minister, Mr Zail Singh which were often played up by the regional press.

Many stories were current in Chandigarh last week on the subject—that influential anti-Darbara Singh politicians advised Mrs. Gandhi to impose President's rule in Punjab, that a section of the Congress (I) extended moral support to Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and that Mr Darbara Singh plainly told the Prime Minister about the activities of "some" in New Delhi who were creating problems for him.

Can the ruling party afford the luxury of factional infighting at this juncture?

[2 Oct 81 p 8]

[Text]

IN an on-the-record interview in Chandigarh the other day, the Punjab Chief Minister Mr Darbara Singh answered questions on the present situation repeatedly stressing the point that his Government would be firm and ruthless in its dealings with secessionists. He had initiated steps, he said, to ensure that anti-national elements do not get refuge in places of worship. Those familiar with the Punjab scene will vouchsafe that the efficacy and speed of his action would determine to a large measure the shape of things to come.

The telephone bell rang several times as he replied to queries in the office room of his official residence. It was Sunday the day the Akali Dal Working Committee met at a gurdwara near Ludhiana to chalk out its next plan for action. And his callers obviously kept him posted with developments throughout the State. He wanted them to keep two things in mind—speed and accuracy.

The misadventure

For official measures to be effective, this, it was clear, will have to be the guiding principle in all cases. As the developments of the last four days showed, Mr Darbara Singh's would not be an easy job. The main Akali Dal, which participated in the discussions during Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Chandigarh on ways to restore normality later decided not to join the all-party peace committee.

The militants among Khalistan campaigners dramatised their protest through the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane and although the adventure misfired, the Dal Khalsa, the group responsible for it is unlikely to feel discouraged and may,

at best, change its tactics. Though prominent members of the Sikh community were prompt in their denunciation, there were no such public comments by any of the Akali groups.

Even the moderates who are convinced of the harmful repercussions of such acts as hijacking have yet to pick up courage to say so in public. The extremists among the Akalis (who are different from militants) in any case, are not repentant. In support they cite the case of the two Pandeyas, the Congress (I) activists who hijacked an I.A. plane to Varanasi in 1978 without being condemned by their party.

The Government, both at the Centre and in the State, had often described occasional pro-Khalistan rallies and other symbolic actions as the handwork of a handful of people. The hijacking showed that though the movement might not have a wide base, the official complacency is misplaced. It adds a new urgency to Mr Darbara Singh's resolve to be tough with extremists.

Here are his replies to some of the questions.

Question: In regard to the Bhindranwale episode, the Punjab Government is being blamed on two counts—(1) that it unnecessarily provoked the Sikh community by its decision to nab the Sant in the absence of firm evidence against him and (2) that the situation immediately after his surrender was not handled tactfully and was allowed to cause avoidable loss of life. What is the official view on it?

None above law

Answer: It is not our intention to provoke any community unnecessarily. Warrants for the arrest of Sant Bhindranwale were issued on the basis of circumstantial evidence

as also the statement given, on his own, by the suspect who had been arrested after the murder of Lala Jagat Narain (reference to Nichitar Singh).

In such cases the evidence can be indirect. It is not always necessary that we have direct evidence of the involvement of whosoever has taken part in the crime. If after interrogation and inquiry nothing is found against the Sant, we would not come in the way of the law taking its course (and freeing him—he implied). But no person, big or small, is above the law.

The events at Chowk, Merta, on the day of the Sant's arrest, have to be seen in proper perspective. A crowd of 40,000 to 50,000 was there and had started dispersing after the arrest. The police were nowhere near the Sant's headquarters and had pitched their tents 1.25 km. away. They were not visible at all in the midst of the crowd, except four or five of them on traffic duty.

Unprovoked attack

Nearly half an hour after the arrest, when the police were rolling their tents, there was an unprovoked attack on them. The attackers were pushed back but regrouped themselves and advanced for another fling at the police. In the process, 11 tents were burnt, four vehicles and a fire-extinguisher were damaged and the duty magistrate was injured.

The police, including the mounted force, fell back but the attack continued with injuries to more of its members. It was at this point that the decision was taken to resort to firing—in self-defence against the unprovoked attack. There was no alternative. The police personnel had reasons to believe that they would have been done to death had they not acted.

Q: Would this process have been smooth with better coordination between the law enforcement authorities of Punjab and Haryana, on the one hand, and Punjab and the Centre, on the other?

Coordination

A: So far as the Haryana and Punjab police were concerned, the coordination was very much there. I and my opposite number from Haryana, along with our Chief Secretaries and Inspectors-General of Police reviewed the situation (soon after the Sant's warrants were issued and decided upon broad points of strategy. The Haryana police fully knew what is what. As regards the Centre, there was no missing link in coordination.

Q: How do you plan to counter, politically and administratively, the cult of violence that has raised its head now?

A: To promote amity and goodwill among different communities we have formed citizens' committees at the State headquarters and among parties and re-

ligious groups. With their help and consultation, we will formulate specific programmes of action. The authorities will be prompt in implementing the decisions taken by these bodies.

Intensive patrolling

Secondly, the Government had stepped up its vigilance. We will not leave anything to chance or let miscreants or undesirable elements continue their activities. We will try our best to contain militancy. We will enforce the law firmly and leave no doubt in anybody's mind that we mean business. Already the intensified police patrolling in various cities and the deployment of the BSF and other forces have helped restore confidence. This process will be built upon.

At the party level, we propose to organise a State-wide campaign to create public opinion against violence and militancy and take steps to strengthen the traditional good relations among different communities in Punjab. With its organisational network spread over all the State, the Congress (I) could effectively discharge this function.

Q: Is the new militancy, with its secessionist overtones, a sudden phenomenon? How strong is the Khalistan movement and could it not have been contained by timely action earlier? What are the factors and forces behind it?

Political motive

A: In part, secessionist tendencies are fed by some sections of overseas Indians who have links with communal elements here. This is a general proposition. It can be examined in two parts.

One, there is a small section of militants who make no secret of their secessionist ideas. It is, however, not uncontrollable and we are going to take steps to counter them effectively and without delay.

Two, the extremist ideas are encouraged, perhaps unwittingly, by the statements and agitations of those who talk of discrimination against Sikhs. The object of the section is political—it hopes to achieve its political ends by propagating alleged grievances of Sikhs. In practice, however, they lend support to extremist tendencies. You call it Khalistan or give it any other name.

Sanctuaries

Q: Your views on the use of gurdwaras as sanctuaries by those indulging in anti-national activities?

A: It is not proper that law-breakers are given shelter in gurdwaras, temples or mosques. There is a sanctity about

places of worship which obviously cannot be maintained if criminals or anti-national elements are allowed to stay there. I have written to the leaders of various religious organisations, SGP, Senatan Dharma, Anya Samaj and others, drawing their attention to the responsibility that devolves on them, and suggesting immediate action to throw out anti-national elements who are using the places of worship as sanctuaries.

It is unfortunate that this should be so. It is the job of the management of places of worship to take steps and not the responsibility of the Government. It is unexceptionable that religious places should not be used as springboards for anti-national activities. We have several communities which have their respective places of worship and the Government has respect for all of them. It has no intention to send the police into gurdwaras. It did not do so in the past and would not do in the future. Because of this the responsibility of the management is all the greater.

Drive against arms

Q: What has been the role of arms—big and small, licensed and illicit, with the people and do you think it is possible to reduce the quantum of these arms to manageable levels?

A: The drive against unlicensed arms is a continuous process and there has been no slackening. Last year we were able to seize some 300 pistols believed to have been smuggled from across the border. The drive would be stepped up.

Even in the case of licensees we would not hesitate from seizing arms if there is fear of misutilisation. The idea is that arms should not be allowed to remain with those who may use it for undesirable ends. There may be irregularities in the grant of arms to bona fide licensees. We will detect such cases and cancel the licences.

Q: Will it be worthwhile attempting a long-term solution on the basis of power-sharing with the moderate section of the Awalis?

A: All those who subscribe to the ideology and policies of the Congress (I) and are willing to join the national mainstream are welcome to our fold. The Government cannot and will not have any truck with communal parties however.

USD: 4220/7164

RESERVE POLICE DIRECTOR TALKS TO NEWSMEN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Sep 81 p 10

[Text] Gandhinagar, September 25--The relevant provisions of the Cr. P.C. should be amended to give the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) the necessary authority like armed forces for maintaining internal security in the country, according to Mr. R. N. Sheopory, director-general of the CRPF.

Mr. Sheopory told newsmen yesterday that the overall law and order situation in the country was quite grim and the responsibility of the CRPF was growing every day.

He regretted that the CRPF units were deployed for long periods at places such as Aligarh, Moradabad and in the eastern part of the country. The law and order was the responsibility of the local authorities and the CRPF should only be deployed to assist them. Instead of taking long-term remedial measures, the local authorities were seeking the help of the CRPF too frequently and for longer periods, he added.

When asked at how many places the CRPF was being deployed, Mr. Sheopory said, "Please ask me at how many places CRPF units were not being engaged".

He said the CRPF was being reorganised and its training system was also being changed to make it more useful in tackling riots, agitations and insurgencies.

Referring to its past performance, he said that during the 1965 war, the CRPF was deployed against the Pakistanis. Earlier, in 1959, its soldiers were killed by the Chinese army while patrolling the Himalayan borders.

The CRPF was raised during the second world war for watch and ward duties at concentration camps set up for the people suspected of having allegiance to the "axis" countries, for guarding the communication system and other activities. It was called "crown representative's police". Till 1948, its strength was only two battalions.

He said the strength of the force had been raised to 66 battalions, though two more paramilitary forces, Indo-Tibetan police and the Border Security Force, were created in 1962 and 1966 for taking over the responsibility of manning border posts.

Mr. Sheopory was here in connection with the passing out parade of 66 battalions of the CRPF. The parade will be held today.

CSO: 4220/7126

MEETING MARKS INDO-SOVIET TREATY ANNIVERSARY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Sep 81 p 10

[Text] The Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty, signed ten years ago, has shown the path for building bridges of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries.

This was the consensus at a meeting held in Delhi on Friday to mark the conclusion of the month-long celebrations of the treaty anniversary.

ISCUS National Council vice-president Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali presided over the meeting.

Soviet Nari (Hindi edition) editor I. Y. Golubyev, who is also the general secretary of the Soviet Indian Friendship Society, described the friendship of the two peoples as the Soviet people's apple of the eye.

Peace and stability were extremely necessary in any region that aspired for prosperity and progress, he said.

Mr Golubyev said that Mrs Gandhi was considered an outstanding international leader in the Soviet Union who had contributed a lot to the cause of world peace and understanding.

He said that the popularity of the Indian Prime Minister could be gauged from the fact that her name was a household word in his country and one daughter in every few homes was named 'Indira.'

CPI member of Parliament Indrajit Gupta told the gathering that both the countries had mutually resolved to maintain peace in the region.

The atmosphere in which the friendship treaty had been signed was vitiated by dangers of war, and the dangers still prevailed with Pakistan acquiring arms from USA and China.

In spite of claims to the contrary, Pakistan had in the past, used its acquired arms against India, Mr Gupta reminded the gathering. It was at a critical juncture that India and the Soviet Union had signed the friendship treaty.

Eminent writer and novelist Rajendra Yadav recalled how Tagore and Premchand had been influenced by Soviet thought and had reflected it in their works.

A book on "Indian Independence movement and the Soviet Revolution" in Hindi, written by Mr B. M. Upadhyaya, was released by Mr Golubyev to mark the occasion.

CSO: 4220/7130

FINANCE MINISTER'S SPEECH TO IMF MEET REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Sep 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Washington, September 27 (PTI)--The finance minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has called upon the world community to provide the necessary resources to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to enable it to play a major role in helping countries undertake adjustment programmes for overcoming their present balance-of-payments problems.

He was addressing the interim committee of the IMF yesterday which was meeting in advance of the annual meetings of the fund and the World Bank next week.

He drew attention of the committee to the "extraordinarily difficult" situation faced by the oil importing developing countries. These countries, he said, were facing a huge current account deficit which had been made worse by a weakening export demand for their products, stagnant and declined aid flows, the very high rate of interests and the weakening commitments to multilateral institutions.

Mr. Venkataraman said that the need for countries to undertake adjustment programmes was both necessary and urgent, and referred to the strong measures undertaken by India to overcome the present critical economic situation confronting it.

The investment programmes in India, he said, reflected the attempt to reduce dependence on imported oil, promote the shift from oil to non-oil energy resources and accord priority in other areas of import substitution and export promotion. He said that till these efforts at adjustment begin to take effect, country like India would require their balance of payments deficits to be financed.

Mr. Venkataraman emphasized that the size of deficit faced by developing countries was very much beyond the capacity of private capital flows to meet. Besides, the low-income countries that did not have adequate access to private markets would not be expected to borrow at prevailing rates of interest on these markets.

Under the circumstance, he said, the significant role of the IMF and the World Bank to assist the developing countries must be realised. There was a need for a substantial increase in multilateral aid flows.

While commending some of the recent measures undertaken by the IMF to provide substantial amounts over longer periods, Mr. Venkataraman expressed concern

about the pressures to limit the scale of fund activity. He urged the fund management to redefine its approach to conditionality by moving away from the traditional short-term stabilisation measures and to reflect the requirements of medium-term adjustment process depending upon investment programmes towards this end.

He called upon the interim committee to give clear indications to the IMF management to explore all avenues for augmenting resources.

CSO: 4220/7137

VENKATARAMAN'S WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Sep 81 p 1

[Article by N. Ram]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 28--The proposal for a five billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR) extended loan to the Government of India goes before the International Monetary Fund's Executive Board on November 9, Mr. R. Venkataraman, Finance Minister, said here on Sunday.

The controversial proposal was originally scheduled to go to the 22-member body in the second half of October. Mr. Venkataraman explained the delay as being caused by the travel plans of the Fund's Managing Director.

He met Mr. J. de Larosiere here for a discussion on the loan and its terms.

Mr. Venkataraman told Indian correspondents here that the formal application--in the form of a "letter of intent" from the Government of India--would be "sent shortly" to the IMF.

Asked if he proposed to make the letter and the "performance clauses" public (in line with his promise to India to make them "almost a public document"), he clarified that the Government planned, after the loan was approved, to release a statement "summarising" the details. He took his stand on the ground that "these documents" were "never" released--although it was pointed out that some years ago the British Government placed, or was brought round to placing, documents on a massive loan from the IMF before Parliament.

Asked about the conditionality imposed by the Fund for the largest lending arrangement in its history, the Finance Minister responded, "There is no question of devaluation as a condition."

As for the U.S. stance towards it, he said that as "an optimist," he expected the arrangement to go through.

Commenting on suggestions in some American newspapers that the Government of India would use the IMF loan for "development financing," Mr. Venkataraman said it was "a categorical application for meeting balance of payments difficulties."

Shackles on Aid Agencies

Speaking earlier in the Interim Committee, the key policy-setting body of the Fund, he called attention to the "extraordinarily difficult economic situation" facing oil-importing developing countries. And in an obvious reference to U.S. and conservative Western stances, he noted that "the commitment to multilateralism has weakened and multilateral institutions are being put under undue and unwarranted restraint."

Attack on Monetarism

In this connection, Mr. Venkataraman had a dig at "misguided monetarism" that had pushed interest rates to unprecedented heights.

Asked after the meeting what specifically he had in mind when he criticised "monetarism," he listed, apart from an obsession with curbing money supply, "demand management as we know it...cutting down public expenditure...high interest rates...and less growth in the economy, leading to greater unemployment."

(Indian officials in the delegation explained that the Finance Minister had used the phrase with exclusive reference to developed countries, in particular U.S. and the United Kingdom. The negative results, they added, were most apparent in the case of the latter country.)

In the Interim Committee, Mr. Venkataraman defended the response of his Government as follows: "We...are in no doubt about the need for domestic adjustment and we have already taken very strong measures towards this end... Prices of crude oil and petroleum products have been raised to realistic levels. Fertilizer prices have also been raised by over 80 per cent. The burden of these price increases alone amounts to over three per cent of GNP. Adjustment on this scale is difficult in any circumstances and even more so at our levels of per capita income and within an open and democratic parliamentary system."

He added that "the logic of structural adjustment" was reflected in "an ambitious expansion programme" to increase domestic exploration and production of oil and also in the investment programmes in the Sixth Plan.

He went on to argue that "all this...takes time as well as money" and even given "the best effort at structural adjustment" it would be necessary to "finance substantial balance of payments deficits in the short run even as the adjustment measures begin to take effect."

Contending that the size of the new deficits were such that "private capital flows cannot possibly be an adequate answer by themselves," he said IMF and the World Bank could not be assigned "a residual role at this critical juncture."

He praised the IMF for responding "commendably to the needs of the situation in the past two years by making available substantial amounts over longer periods than was possible under its traditional stand-by arrangements."

He regretted the questioning of the Fund's "innovative developments" for "reasons hard to understand" and expressed "concern" over pressures to limit the scale of IMF activity and also for "stricter conditionality."

Addressing "the issue of conditionality" (which he recognised as "the specific and unique characteristic of Fund financing"), the Finance Minister said there could be "no dispute" that "the use of Fund resources must be accompanied by, and indeed support, the adoption of appropriate adjustment measures. But conditionality must be relevant to the needs of the situation and several aspects of the present situation call for a new approach to conditionality."

Using jargon in favour here, Mr. Venkataraman asserted (in the Interim Committee) that "an effective adjustment in the present situation depends heavily upon supple side responses which in turn depend upon investment programmes."

He appealed to the Fund to "move away from its traditional, almost exclusive, focus on instruments of short-term stabilisation" and "move towards a broader definition of conditionality consistent with the requirements of a medium-term adjustment process."

CSO: 4220/7143

INDIAN BUSINESS DELEGATION HOLDS MOSCOW TALKS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Oct 81 p 5

[Text]

MOSCOW, Sept. 30.—The Soviet Union has reportedly showed interest in an offer by a group of private Indian business men to set up a synthetic fibre unit in India with Western technology provided the USSR agreed to buy a substantial part of its output on a long-term basis, reports PTI.

The offer was made yesterday by a group of leading Indian business men now on a visit here at the invitation of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry during a two-and-half hour meeting with the Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Nikolai Patolichev.

The group also offered to set up a shoe plant in India with Soviet equipment and technology for producing footwear for the USSR and third country markets.

It acquainted the Soviet Minister with the strides made by private industries in India, their potential for growth and absorption of the latest technology in keeping with national goals.

The two sides reportedly discussed various possibilities of collaboration with the Indian private sector to supplement cooperation already existing between State agencies in the two countries.

Earlier, during the group's discussions yesterday, the Soviet side is understood to have suggested setting up on a permanent basis some joint machinery like those the USSR has with private enterprises in Japan and West Germany.

While welcoming the idea, members of the visiting group are believed to have felt that arrangements already existing with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry could be further strengthened to achieve the desired results.

As regards collaboration in third country ventures, any proposal will have to take into account the parameters within which the Soviet Union operates in its economic relations with foreign countries.

As a rule the Soviet Union does not invest in outlays of enterprises in other States on a partnership or ownership basis. It only provides the technology, equipment and necessary credits repayable over long periods. It does undertake turn-key projects but without stakes in ownership.

CSO: 4220/7153

INDIAN BUSINESSMEN'S TEAM ENDS MOSCOW TALKS

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Oct 81 p 5

[Text]

MOSCOW Oct 1

The seven-member group of Indian businessmen concluded discussions on Wednesday with representatives of key Soviet economic Ministries on a hopeful note of new vistas opening up for fruitful collaboration between private Indian industry and Soviet commercial and industrial enterprises.

The group had prolonged discussions with the chairman of the Soviet planning body and the State committee for economic relations with foreign countries Mr Nikolai Baibakov and Mr Seymon Skatchkov.

During these discussions, as in the earlier meeting here, the group members outlined a large number of proposals that have relevance to the economies of the two countries.

They identified a long list of items which the group members felt could be supplied by India on a long-term basis for which the USSR is now spending substantial amounts in convertible currency against imports from the West.

Unlike in the past when India invariably ended up with a favourable balance of trade with the USSR, the Soviet Union is likely to turn the balance in its favour in the coming years and thus have enough trade surpluses to enlarge its imports from India.

The current year's trade turnover is expected to exceed Rs. 2600 crores

and in 1982 both sides are aiming at raising the total two-way trade exchanges to almost Rs. 4000 crores.

Besides an export-oriented modern footwear plant in India with Soviet technology and equipment and a synthetic fibre plant based on Western technology for meeting Soviet consumer needs, individual members of the group have indicated they could set up units to produce industrial robots which have a direct relevance to the acute labour shortage in the USSR.

The Soviet Union has already made a beginning in using industrial robots where human ingenuity is not altogether needed.

The talks covered bilateral, third country and export-oriented projects. It also proposed that the existing Indo-USSR Joint Chamber under the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry be broadbased and strengthened.

This will enable members of other industrial organisations like the Associated Chamber and the All-India Manufacturers Organisation, interested in promoting commercial and economic cooperation with the USSR, to join and participate in them.

However, there is no move to establish an permanent joint body of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the two countries, according to Mr K. N. Modi, a member of the group.

PRESS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN REPORTS ON MEETING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Oct 81 p 11

[Text] Bhubaneswar, Oct. 2--The Press Council of India is seeking the power to censor, reprimand and warn the Government for setting up commissions. At present it can merely record its observations on issues involving the Government. This was stated by the council's chairman, Mr Justice A. N. Grover here yesterday.

Addressing a Press conference after a two-day meeting of the Press Council, he said that the Council had finalized its observations on a speech delivered by the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr Vasant Sathe in Calcutta. Mr Sathe had reportedly observed that if a journalist did not "behave properly" he should be put in jail. The Maharashtra Chief Minister Mr Antulay's remarks on journalists had also been noted. The observations would be released to the Press in Delhi.

Mr Justice Grover said in response to representations made by journalists that a sub-committee of the Press Council, in collaboration with the Indian Law Institute, was making a detailed study of the clauses of different laws which could inhibit the freedom of the Press. These related, among others, to the Official Secrets Act, contempt of court and parliamentary privileges. The Press Council would forward its views on the subject to the Government with a request to amend certain clauses of the Acts concerned in order to ensure Press freedom, he added.

The Press Council had till last month received 350 complaints against the Government and newspaper managements. Mr Justice Grover was against the Government curbing the release of advertisements to newspapers on ground that they indulged in "yellow journalism" or character assassination of Ministers or officials. The aggrieved persons could very well bring the matter before the Press Council, he pointed out. The Council was interested in ensuring Press freedom.

Under the provisions of the law, the Press Council was levying funds from newspapers to meet its expenses. He felt that newspapers particularly the larger ones, should agree to pay double the fund being levied at present to stop the dependence of the Press Council on Government funds.

Mr Justice Grover stressed the need for newspapers to deal more elaborately with socio-economic problems. A sample survey made by the Council revealed that six national English newspapers devoted negligible space to the coverage of such items,

while four Hindi newspapers did slightly better. Some regional language papers provided more matter on the subject.

UNI adds: Mr Justice Grover said that the Council was satisfied with the replies given by the editors of Samaj and Prajatantra of Cuttack in connection with the attacks made by medical college students on the staff of their dailies.

Mr Justice Grover said the two editors had appeared before the Council and stated that they would not like to pursue the matter as because the Cuttack Medical College students and the police had apologized.

The Press Council had taken up the matter ~~sue~~ ~~motto~~ and had asked the State Government and the newspapers to give their versions. "It is disappointing that the State Government did not cooperate with us. It is the same in other States," Mr Justice Grover said. The newspapers maintained that the police had "connived" with students.

CSO: 4220/7166

PRESS COUNCIL SEPTEMBER DECISION REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 5--The Minister of External Affairs had asked the Press Council to evolve rules governing acceptance by the Indian Press of advertisements from foreign missions denouncing third countries with which India had friendly relations.

The council, however, decided at its meeting held at Bhubaneswar on September 29-30, 1981, to remit the case back to the External Affairs Ministry with a view to taking such action as it deemed proper through the diplomatic channels, requesting foreign Embassies in India not to use our media for any such purpose.

The Authors Guild of India drew the attention of the council to the cavalier treatment meted out to freelance writers by editors of newspapers, and requested it to draw up some conventions or rules with regard to this matter. The council was, however, of the view that no principles should be evolved in this behalf and that it could consider specific cases on the merits whenever they are brought before it.

The council decided to notify certain associations and news agencies in terms of the provisions of the Press Council Act, 1978, for the purpose of nominating members to the council, which will be reconstituted with effect from March 1, 1982.

A complaint lodged by a member of the council alleged that Mr A. R. Antulay, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, made some derogatory remarks against journalists. The council noted that its appeal to responsible public men and journalists made some time in the past to desist from using objectionable language against each other had not been taken seriously.

It accordingly resolved to reiterate the appeal to all concerned to refrain from making such statements which tend to undermine the freedom of the Press and interfere with the role expected of it in a democratic society. At the same time, the Press is also expected to maintain high standards of public taste and professional responsibility.

CSO: 4220/7185

TATA TALKS TO NEWSMEN ON VISIT TO USSR

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Oct 81 p 3

[Article by Vinod Taksal]

[Text] Moscow, Oct 2--The Soviet Union might go in for collaborative ventures with the Indian private sector in a big way in the near future following talks here between an Indian industrialist's delegation and top managers of the Soviet economy.

According to sources, the Soviet Union has put forward a number of proposals for joint collaborative and third country ventures in the non-government spheres before the Indian delegation. Equity participation of the Soviet Union with the private sector has also been hinted at.

Delegation leader Naval Tata said today that they had "very useful" and constructive talks with top managers of the Soviet economy and foreign trade, including first Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov, who is also co-chairman of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission, State Foreign Economic Relations Committee Chairman Seymon Skachkov, Planning Commission Chief Baibakov and Soviet Chamber of Commerce Acting Chief Plitnov.

Indian businessmen and Soviet authorities both of whom seem eager to cooperate with each other in the coming years in fulfilment of the goals set in the Brezhnev-Indira Gandhi documents signed in New Delhi last December.

Speaking at a largely attended reception yesterday by the group, Mr Seymon Skachkov, repeatedly emphasised that the discussions would lead to tangible results.

Later talking to newsmen, Mr Tata said several proposals were exchanged by the group and Soviet authorities which are to be pursued in the coming months.

Mr Grishin is due to visit India in December and the group has invited a delegation from the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Tata said all those to whom the group had spoken have indicated a willingness to cooperate with the private sector in India actively.

Photochemical Plant

The construction of a photochemical plant in India with Soviet assistance has been envisaged in a protocol signed during the visit of another Indian delegation.

A group of Soviet experts will soon arrive in India to discuss with their Indian colleagues the capacity of the plant and also to choose the site for its construction. They will also collect the required data for the preparation of a feasibility report for the construction of the plant.

The protocol, reports APN, also provides for the construction of new boilers with power houses at the antibiotics plant in Rishikesh and synthetic drugs plant in Hyderabad.

CSO: 4220/7169

SINGH TALKS TO PRESS ON KHALISTAN, COMMUNAL PARTIES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, Oct. 3 (PTI)--Union Home Minister Zail Singh today said that foreign money might be involved in the "Khalistan Movement" as some nations "do not want political stability in India."

"This kind of movement attracts others and you can understand what they do and what they want," he told newsmen on his arrival here from Delhi.

Mr Zail Singh said the Government would consider a ban on parties generating hatred among communities. However, this would be done only as a last resort if persuasion and negotiation failed to solve the problem.

Mr Zail Singh said that there is no proposal to promulgate President's rule in Punjab on account of the threatened Akali agitation.

He said that the Union Government would provide all possible assistance to the Punjab Government to deal with the situation arising out of the agitation.

He said the situation would be further reviewed after the Prime Minister's return from the foreign tour.

"There is no danger to the law and order situation. It is under control. The State Government is having dialogue with the political parties on the problem," he added.

Mr Zail Singh said some "misguided elements" were behind the Khalistan movement. The Sikh community as such was not supporting the demand. "This demand is harmful to the country and the Sikh panth as well," he said.

"The Sikh leaders were opposed to the movement," he added.

Mr Zail Singh expressed the hope that the Punjabis would live up to their tradition and not allow lawlessness and communal riots in the State.

CSO: 4220/7176

GANDHI PRESS CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Canberra, Oct. 4--Mrs Gandhi said here tonight that India would not be "caught napping" by Pakistan which had jumped "a decade ahead of us" by acquiring sophisticated armaments, report PTI and UNI.

She told a dinner meeting of the National Press Club that she could not face people or Parliament if they thought that India, which had been invaded five times during the past three decades and which had been "caught napping" twice, was not fully prepared to meet any eventuality.

Mrs Gandhi's remarks came in reply to a reporter's question that how she reconciled her call for a halt to arms race when she herself was going to Paris next month to sign an agreement with France for purchase of 150 Mirages.

The Prime Minister expressed concern over Pakistan's preparations to acquire a nuclear weapon. "Naturally we do not approve of it."

The address to the Press Club was her last engagement here before she flew to Melbourne at the conclusion of the weekend retreat of Commonwealth leaders.

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr Robert Muldoon, was the only other Commonwealth leader to address the club. He preceded Mrs Gandhi by a few hours and drew small audience in contrast, nearly 800 people attended Mrs Gandhi's meeting.

Mrs Gandhi held Pakistan responsible for forcing India to make a huge defence expenditure to protect its security and integrity.

She said India had to divert funds for defence, which could have been used for the benefit of the poor.

In reply to another question the Prime Minister said India had protested against the supply of F16 aircraft by the USA to Pakistan though she did not know whether it could be described "as a formal protest" in diplomatic parlance.

On Afghanistan, she said India had publicly and privately told the Soviet leaders that their troops should quit Afghanistan, "but they feel encircled." She said that a proper way out would be to find a solution to the problem rather than make a big noise about it.

Criticizing the double standards practised by some countries in this regard, Mrs Gandhi asked why there had been "no mobilization of world opinion or even a condemnation" when some other major Powers had indulged in similar interventions." She said amid laughter: "We in India are different in this respect."

The Prime Minister, who answered a wide range of questions in an hour-long conference, including those on Pakistan's entry into the Commonwealth sports contacts with South Africa, and the plight of Harijans in India and the recent conversion to Islam, defended the utility of the Commonwealth, though it is a loose forum.

Mrs Gandhi said even a body like the Commonwealth could play a very useful role in arresting the growing confrontation between big Powers and their arms race and thus arrest the drift to war and in expediting North-South dialogue.

Mrs Gandhi explained that the Pokhran experiment was only the explosion of a nuclear device without any fall-out. India was interested in harnessing nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes like agriculture, power generation and the like.

Asked if this was one reason why India was blocking Pakistan's readmission into the Commonwealth, she replied in the negative.

She confirmed India had strong reservations on the issue and said there had been no change either in the Commonwealth or in Pakistan to warrant India supporting Pakistan's readmission. The decision to opt out of the Commonwealth was taken by an elected Government in Pakistan.

Since then there had been no elections there. "It is only the voice of one man, which need not be given great weight," she said, referring to the military dictatorship headed by General Zia-ul-Haq.

Further, where was the guarantee that Pakistan would not opt out again. She feared that Pakistan would utilize the forum as it had done in other international platforms to bring up bilateral questions, contrary to the accepted convention in the Commonwealth.

Without revealing name, Mrs Gandhi said a prominent international leader had told her: "It is so sad. Nobody wants war but the world seems to be drifting to it."

The Prime Minister said that in her view "we are moving towards greater confrontation" with the increase of the armaments industry and the spread of armaments. This drift should be arrested, she said.

The second danger to world stability and peace was "the widening gap between richer and poorer nations." Mrs Gandhi said action to eliminate this disparity should be taken immediately.

The Prime Minister, who was asked a number of questions suggesting that India was over-reacting to the situation, quipped: "Are you suggesting that Pakistan is going to use American-supplied F-16 aircraft and other equipment against the Soviet Union?"

Comparing the Indian and British systems, Mrs Gandhi said that the British Queen was completely non-political but in India the President belonged to political parties and right now he (the President) belonged to an Opposition party.

India, she said, sought genuine friendship with every country. This was India's attitude towards Pakistan and China too, she said.

CSO: 4220/7180

PATIL ADDRESSES EASTERN NAVAL COMMAND OFFICERS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] Visakhapatnam, October 4--The minister of state for defence, Mr. Shivraj Patil, said today India would spare no efforts in strengthening its armed forces for the better defence of the country.

Addressing officers of the Eastern Naval Command here, Mr. Patil said the country was aware of its neighbours being armed with some sophisticated weapons, including F-16 aircraft, by big powers. But our defence forces were also equally well equipped with modern arms, he said.

He warned that India's endeavour to promote peace in the world should not be mistaken for its weakness.

The Union minister said that some countries, which were envious of our rapid economic development, were trying to exploit India's internal problems like parochialism and casteism. The government was taking every care to safeguard the interests of the people and, at the same time, our armed forces were prepared to meet any threat to the country's integrity and sovereignty, he added.

Mr. Patil said the government was now engaged in improving the economic conditions of the weaker sections. He appealed to the people to help the government in this gigantic task. He also made a special mention of the important role the press had to play in this regard.

Mr. Patil, who was on a two-day visit to Visakhapatnam to inspect the naval establishments, was received by Vice-Admiral M. K. Roy.

CSO: 4220/7178

INDIA

CONCERN SHOWN OVER NEWSPRINT COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, October 2 (PTI)--The Editors' Guild of India at a meeting here noted with "profound concern" the newsprint advisory committee's proposal to deny newsprint to papers engaging in "anti-national" activities and to impose a 60:40 news-advertisement ratio.

The guild is of the view that "not only do these proposals go against the assurances held out to industry by persons in authority that, apart from the normal law of the land no other restrictions of any type would be imposed on the newspapers, but are calculated to jeopardise the freedom of the press," a guild release said.

"The guild is shocked to note that these suggestions should originally come from the Press Council. The guild has always been of the view that the Press Council's functions are solely of a regulatory nature and that it is not for the council to punish newspapers. As such its demand for 'teeth' is wholly misguided and in any case against informal assurances given to the guild," the guild resolution said.

The guild congratulated members of the newsprint advisory committee who opposed the Press Council's demand and urged the government to drop "this dangerous idea."

The guild welcomed the ruling given by the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Iqbalatullah, on the privilege motion against the executive editor of "Indian Express," Mr. Arun Shourie, over the "Antulay affair."

Particularly noteworthy is his observation that newspapers are the eyes and ears of the public and if every citizen has the right to criticise the actions of others, so have newspapers whose job it is to turn the light of publicity on the irregularities of public action."

4220/7165

TEXTBOOKS TO BE INSPECTED FOR COMMUNAL TEACHINGS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] The Centre has instructed the State Government to take up the scrutiny and evaluation of school textbooks from class one to seven with a view to replacing them if they are found to instil in young minds feelings of animosity between different communities, reports PTI.

The Centre's instruction followed the recommendations by the National Integration Council and the Minorities Commission which have laid emphasis on the vital role of education in bringing about national integration.

The two bodies had recommended replacement of such objectionable textbooks and their replacement by such textbooks as encourage feelings of equality and brotherhood between members of all communities.

Emphasizing the urgency of such evaluation, the Centre has told the States in a communication that to begin with, the programme may be confined to evaluation of history and language textbooks. The textbooks in language would cover the first language, the second language and English.

History textbooks would include books taught either as an independent subject or as a part of social studies.

The Centre has also told them that efforts should be made to ensure that revised textbooks, where necessary, become available for the 1982 academic session. School textbooks in other subjects can be taken up in later phases for similar review. The Centre has issued detailed procedure in making the evaluation.

Besides the States, the National Council of Educational Research and Training will organise a national conference to coordinate evaluation.

The Union Government is also considering the question of setting up a high-level steering committee at the national level to coordinate such evaluation.

CSO: 4220/7135

INDIA

INDIA MAY REPLACE SOVIET-BUILT TRANSPORT PLANES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] India is examining the possibility of acquiring wide-bodied modern transport planes to replace its present fleet of Soviet-built planes, reports PTI.

According to new Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh the Government would 'soon take a decision as to which model of the transport plane it should acquire to replace the A. N. 12 planes which had been phased out by its producer country--the Soviet Union.

In an informal chat with newsmen on Thursday night he said that these Soviet planes had to be phased out by India because of the difficulty in getting spares for them in future.

The AN 12 planes described as the 'work-horse' of the Indian Air Force in the western and eastern maintenance command were inducted into the air force in 1960s.

In reply to questions the Air Force Chief said that suitability of various models of transport planes were at present being examined in the world market and a final decision would soon be taken.

India is the only country in the world which has an air field at the height of about 10,000 feet above sea level.

Air Marshal Dilbagh Singh told a questioner that a final decision for replacement of 'Packet' and Dakota transport planes with the air force had already been taken. These planes would be phased out as the new replacement Soviet planes A.N. 32 were received, he said.

CSO: 4220/7169

ECONOMIST PREDICTS PROBLEMS CAUSED BY IMF LOAN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Oct 81 p 8

[Article by Amiya Kumar Bagchi, professor of economics at the Center for Studies in Social Sciences]

[Text] Last week we published an article by Mr K. Rangachari on the IMF loan. Amiya Kumar Bagchi takes a critical view of the loan conditions but says that the Indian Government has already taken a number of the measures the Fund is likely to insist on if the loan is to be sanctioned. He feels that the loan, if it finally comes through, will lead to an enormous increase in the country's debt burden. Given the protectionist trade climate and the poor aid prospects, there is no guarantee that exports will increase at a sufficiently rapid pace to take care of the higher interest payments. Apart from the balance of payments, there is also the problem of "disciplining the economy" which may lead to the death of sick industries and the birth of new units of production.

Dr Bagchi, who studied Economics at Calcutta and Cambridge, is Professor of Economics at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences; he was earlier head of the Department of Economics at Presidency College, Calcutta.

When an application to the International Monetary Fund for a large loan is publicly announced and when an IMF team is officially appointed to examine the application, it means that negotiations have been going on for some time between Fund officials and the Government concerned. It also implies that an assurance of success has been given to the applicant, subject, of course, to the satisfaction of IMF "conditionality" (or conditions in plain English). President Reagan and his team have committed a diplomatic solecism by wanting to revoke the assurance at this stage.

Indian spokesmen are seeking, rightly, to convert this threatened revocation into an international issue. The postponement of the date of formal application by more than a month must be seen as a move in this diplomatic battle. But what Indian Government spokesmen are also seeking to do is to convert it into an issue of national honour and interest. As things stand, however, the success or failure of the IMF loan is a matter of Hobson's choice as far as the general Indian public

is concerned. And this situation is the cumulative result of a disastrous series of economic policies pursued by the Government during the past 15 years.

"Conditionality"

The success of the loan application will depend on the fulfilment of the usual "conditionality" imposed by the IMF in the case of loans for extended facility. Loans from this facility are granted for a period of up to three years to overcome balance of payments problems caused by structural imbalances. The IMF would then insist on adoption of policies to effect "structural readjustment." Now, structural problems and structural readjustment mean different things to different people. To economists following the lead of Raul Prebisch, structural problems mean problems resulting from lack of development of industry, narrowness of the home market, inelasticity of supplies of agricultural products, and so on, for which industrialization is considered to be the basic remedy.

To the IMF, however, structural readjustment essentially means allowing market forces a free play in the allocation of resources, and minimizing government intervention in the economy. Curbs on public expenditure, particularly of the unproductive variety (such as expenditure on defence and administration, social welfare measures and subsidies on foodgrain, fertilizer, etc.) are among the conditions required by the Fund. It also insists on removal of restrictions on both internal and external trade and on foreign exchange movements. It regards devaluation as the most desirable solution for recurring balance of payments deficits, for the shifting of resources towards the export sector and encouraging inflows of capital from abroad. The IMF also favours an incomes policy, which is a euphemism for wage restrictions.

It is important to realize that the Government of India has already gone a long way towards meeting some of the conditions likely to be imposed by the Fund for granting the loan. The World Bank, in its latest report, had kind things to say about the recent economic performance of the country and approvingly took note of a shift in its economic policy. One of the factors, paradoxically enough, contributing to our balance of payments crisis, has precisely been the relaxation of restrictions so favoured by the World Bank and the Fund.

The Government has also sought to improve the climate for foreign investment by widening the area in which foreign firms are allowed to invest, and by removing various restrictions on capacity expansion and diversification by monopoly houses and transnational corporations. The decision to impound 50 per cent of additional dearness allowances accruing to wage and salary earners in future is a step restricting wage increases. (Indexation of wages to the price level has generally been regarded with distaste by the Fund.) The passing of the Essential Services Maintenance Act has been rightly regarded by trade unions and Opposition parties as a potent instrument for curbing wage demands and workers' rights in general.

The Government has also brought down the planned rate of expansion of the public sector. The target share of the public sector in the outlay under the Sixth Five Year Plan is 56.6 per cent, which is below the 70 per cent projected for the public sector under the Fifth Plan and is in fact below the share of the public sector outlay in every Five Year Plan since 1951. For 1981-82, the Government has

budgeted for only a 10.6 per cent increase in governmental gross capital formation as against an increase of 26.5 per cent in 1980-81. Thus, with an inflation rate of 15 per cent, there will be an actual fall in the real capital formation under governmental auspices particularly since the resources of the State Governments and most non-departmental public enterprises for capital formation have also been adversely affected by Central Government decisions and inflation (partly fuelled by the latest round of price increases effected by the Central Government).

Good Boy

While the Central Government has slashed the value of public sector capital formation in real terms, the subsidies under the Budget for 1981-82 amount to Rs 2,090 crores, a large amount by any criterion. A major part of these subsidies will almost certainly be justified as being needed for pushing forward with the strategy of export-led growth.

Suppose that with all this ground preparation and with the "good boy" certificate from the World Bank, the Government is successful in its application for a loan for five billion Special Drawing Rights (\$5.7 billion-\$5.8 billion at the current rate of exchange). What does the Government expect out of such a loan? First of all, it expects an amelioration of the current balance of payments difficulties and an easy solution of its own ways and means problems. Such an amelioration will, of course, be at the expense of increasing the debt servicing burden enormously.

The current interest burden on India's debt is of the order of Rs 450 crores. Even though the Fund loan would amount to about a third of the current external debt of India, the interest burden will be doubled for the rate of interest will be much higher (around 9 to 10 per cent on an average) than on the IDA loans of which India has been a major recipient. When repayment of the loan starts in full, even assuming a maximum repayment period of 10 years permitted under the current Fund regulations, another Rs 500 crores will be added to the debt servicing burden. If the Fund insists on any major devaluation of the rupee (even though the Government has allowed the value of the rupee to slide downward by an appreciable margin), the rupee burden of repayment will increase further.

The Government expects an inflow of foreign capital into the country. International banks have indicated that their willingness to lend will be boosted if the Fund loan comes through. But the basic reason for this hidden "conditionality" should itself make the Indian public beware of such loans. With the enormous increase in the debt burden of the so-called developing countries--mostly non-oil exporting countries--the commercial banks have shown an eagerness to have the World Bank-IMF as their watchdog, and of course the USA as the final overseer. The interest rate on such commercial loans will be very high and unless there is a corresponding expansion of exports, India will find itself bound to a treadmill which forces continual external borrowing on a country in order to enable it to repay past debts. We have had some experience of servicing such a treadmill, but not with the rates of interest in prospect.

Does the Government seriously believe that exports will go up enough for this risky step to be taken calmly? Even if the reallocation of resources towards

the export sector takes place, will protectionism and continued recession in the advanced capitalist countries permit us to export our goods at remunerative prices? (Our external terms of trade have seriously declined during the last few years.) Or is the Government's horizon bound only by the date of the next election (or the next succession)?

Bitter Medicine

But there is more to the Government's (and the Fund's) calculation than just the amelioration of balance of payments problems. There is the serious business of disciplining the economy. Even many economists of the Fund or the monetarist school now admit that devaluation is likely to lead to an aggravation of inflation because of the inelasticity of demand for imported inputs and to recession. But they would judge that if the medicine is continued long enough, only the sick units will die and new units of production (or services) will be born out of the tribulations of market forces.

Is the Indian public prepared for such a medicine as a result of which whole industries will die? And is it likely to have the confidence that the growth of new business will be enough to compensate for the death of old industries? Only in severely repressive regimes has the government been able to "persuade" the general public to have this confidence and such confidence has as often been belied by events as justified by them. The Government, in the name of the Fund, may want to administer such a medicine to workers and salaried employees. But will all capitalist groups find such a medicine palatable?

Will wage-restraint, however, be enough for the Government to carry out the necessary tasks, even for the Fund's variety of readjustment? Year after year railway freight has increased, programmes of construction of power stations have fallen badly behind schedule (this is also true of 1980-81, the first year of the Sixth Plan), public sector projects have got delayed, and inventories have accumulated with both public and private sector units. (This has had the result of inflating the measured rate of "saving"--unintended saving--of the Indian economy.) For overcoming these problems, massive investments in the public sector along with "discipline" will be necessary. But the Fund guidelines will preclude such a stepping up of investment.

There are many other unanswered questions surrounding the Indian application for the loan. The ability of the Government to curtail non-developmental expenditure, particularly on defence, in view of its perception of a threat from a U.S.-equipped Pakistani military establishment, its ability to enforce discipline on a heterogeneous bourgeoisie, the prospects of success of its loan application in view of a serious deterioration of the international environment for aid and loans to poor countries are all subjects that merit a closer look. But the anodyne phrases and the occasionally nationalistic postures of the Government should not blind the public to its short-term perspective or to its demonstrated willingness to apply some of the medicine usually recommended by the IMF and--if necessary--to apply stronger medicines even if they prove oppressive or even lethal to ordinary people.

LOK DAL ENDORSES OPPOSITION UNITY BID

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 2--The national executive of the Lok Dal today is pleased with the informal talks Mr Charan Singh, its president, recently had with Opposition leaders and for the first time since the break-up of the Janata party, it "unanimously expressed itself in favour of unity of all Opposition forces."

The meeting, which heard a gist from Mr Charan Singh of the informal talks he had with representatives of the Congress (S), Bharatiya Janata party and the Janata party, gave him an almost "go ahead" signal by adopting a one-para resolution which said: "In view of the stupendous challenge with which the nation is confronted today and the ardent desire of the people for a viable and credible alternative, the national executive of the Lok Dal unanimously expresses itself in favour of unity of all Opposition forces wedded to democracy and social and economic changes."

The resolution signified a distinct change in the party's attitude on this issue of unity, since all along it had given the impression that although it was not opposed to unity, but the initiative must come from others.

However, this continued to be the stand when the party general secretary, Mr Madhu Limaye, briefing reporters after the meeting, continued to harp on the factor that the initiative had come from leaders like Mr Devaraj Urs and but for it, Mr Charan Singh would not have been in the picture.

Mr Limaye was ruffled when asked to name the Opposition leaders with whom Mr Charan Singh had held talks. He said that to know the details one would have to wait till the formal talks take place but he was unable to say when. Apart from saying that it was "affirmative and positive in manner," he was unwilling to say anything more on the resolution.

The national executive passed two other resolutions, one on corruption in public life and the other on parity price. The resolutions on law and order, which was termed as "law of the jungle," the Asian Games and Khalistan, were held over for tomorrow.

Commenting on the "rampant corruption prevailing in the ruling party," the national executive demanded the immediate dismissal of all the Congress (I) Chief

Ministers and the removal of Mrs Gandhi "by organizing public opinion against her continuance in the top political office."

The resolution further said that with the installation of the Congress Governments in the States in June 1980, "fleecing" the Indian people had become the chief activity of the Congress (I) and Chief Ministers were selected not for their ability but for their "capacity to collect money by hook or by crook."

According to the resolution, it has been estimated that the various Congress (I) Chief Ministers have been contributing to the central fund of Mrs Gandhi at least Rs 10 million a day. "It is Prime Minister Indira Gandhi herself who is the fountainhead of corruption," the resolution added.

The resolution congratulated Mr Arun Shourie of The Indian Express and other fearless journalists "whose number is necessarily limited" and it expressed concern over the growing ineffectiveness of the representative institutions in the country.

In another resolution, the national executive demanded that the cane price should not be less than Rs 40 a quintal, and paddy support price of Rs 160. Similarly a fair support price for jute and cotton should be fixed and the Government agencies must ensure that the growers actually get that price.

The Lok Dal warned the farming community that unless they organized themselves and developed power of resistance, they would be increasingly exploited by the "unholy" alliance of ruling party politicians, corrupt bureaucrats, trade and industry.

The national executive condoled the death of CPI leader Bhupesh Gupta and Lala Jagat Narain.

About 27, out of 34 members, attended the national executive meeting. Among those present were Mr Karpoori Thakur, Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Devi Lal, Mr Kumbharak Arya Sheikh Abdur Rahman, Mr Rabi Ray, Mr Satyanarayana Reddy, Mr Chimanbhai Patel, Mr Purushottam Kaushik and Mr Sharad Yadav.

CSO: 4220/7166

GENERAL DESCRIBES TESTS FOR ARMY RECRUITS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 26 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] Sept. 25--Young men seeking to enlist in the Indian Army will have to undergo a written examination from now on. A physiological examination is to be introduced and soon a psychological test will be added. All this is to ensure that soldiers-to-be have the intelligence to handle the increasingly sophisticated and complex weapons and equipment issued to the Army.

The tests have been carefully designed to make sure that the rural bias in recruitment remains unchanged. Eighty per cent of the recruitment is done from the villages and the Army would like it stay that way, the Director of Recruitment, Major General A. E. Joseph said in New Delhi today. The tests will begin on October 1.

Apart from enabling the Army to select personnel of better quality, the tests will obviate some of the malpractices that are committed in the hope of recruitment. A lesser advantage will be that since more than one officer will be handling the tests there will be fewer allegations levelled at the recruiting officers--allegations which General Joseph maintained were baseless.

The written examination would be of the type that any student who had studied till Class V ought to pass fairly easily. The physiological and psychological tests would aim at selecting men with quick reflexes. The overall gain would be that instead of just accepting people who had the minimal physical standards, and were literate, the Army would be getting recruits better suited to the requirements of modern warfare.

In the past, all that the Army asked an applicant to produce was a certificate of literacy from his school. He had to be literate in any language of the region. It had been observed that very many fake certificates were being presented.

The recruiting officers had always sought to have suspect certificates verified from the local education officials. In many cases people who presented fake certificate were later handed over to the police. According to General Joseph, the main value of the certificate was that it contained the date of birth of the candidate. A medical examination was also conducted to try and establish whether or not a man was of recruitable age--17 to 20 years.

General Joseph said that aptitude tests would not be conducted at the recruitment stage. That would be, as is now done, at the Regimental Centre at which a recruit was given his basic military training. He explained that recruitment was done at two levels. What the Army called the normal rate was for fit young men who were literate, and the matric rate in which matriculates were asked to take a competitive examination and then selected. Many of these went in for the more technical arms and services.

Asked whether young men from the urban areas would have an advantage in the written examination, General Joseph said that he did not think so. But if there was such advantage the rural boys would probably have the edge in the physiological test. An overall assessment would be made. Nobody would start with a handicap.

Why was the Class V level chosen? He said that it was a very basic level, though even now young people who had studied till much higher were seeking recruitment. He felt that, if necessary, the level could be raised at a later stage. It would be preferable to raise a standard based on what actually took place rather than start with a high standard and then be forced to reduce it.

The basic class composition would remain unaffected. Depending upon the number of vacancies in each regiment, recruiting officers in different parts of the country were given a quota of vacancies to be filled. This ensured that recruitment was broad-based. He observed that almost all States were fulfilling their quotas. At times there had been shortages but were never of a nature critical enough to warrant the quota of one State being transferred to another.

Regarding the physical requirements, General Joseph said that a survey had been conducted. It had established the height, weight and chest measurement to be expected of physically fit young men of each caste or race. If a candidate possessed the requisite physique he was then subjected to a detailed medical examination.

General Joseph said that though the educational standard for recruitment was low, all soldiers continued to receive general education during the training and even when on active service. They did a series of certificate examinations and the special certificate was accepted as being equivalent to the Class X examination.

CSO: 4220/127

OFFICIAL NOTES INCIDENCE OF INDUSTRIAL SICKNESS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] Mr Maganbhai Barot, Union Deputy Minister for Finance, said in Calcutta on Saturday that "defaulting management" was responsible for the "sickness" of 54 per cent of the large industrial units which had fallen sick. At present, Rs 1,100 crores of advances from banks and other financial institutions were blocked in 378 such units. Another Rs 345 crores were blocked in 22,000 "sick" small industrial units. Mr Barot said that the incidence of industrial sickness was highest in West Bengal.

Addressing a meeting of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Minister urged the industry to look at itself and inquire if it had made enough contributions to the country's progress. Speaking on banks and industrial growth, he said that there was hardly anything to be said about the banks' performance in relation to the industry. But industry had to answer for rather poor utilization and realization of bank lendings, he said.

Mr Barot also complained that the number of mandays lost in industry due to strikes and lock-outs was the highest in West Bengal, closely followed by Maharashtra. Last year, over 3.6 million mandays were lost in West Bengal against nearly 2.5 million in Maharashtra. He wondered how the loss of mandays could be reduced in West Bengal, while the State Government had opposed the Essential Services Maintenance Act.

The Minister also complained that the West Bengal Government's figures for its overdrafts did not tally with the figures given by the Reserve Bank of India. While the State Government maintained that its overdraft amounted to Rs 65 crores, the RBI accounts showed it at Rs 117 crores. The State Government said that the RBI figure was not "correct" and that it could not get the "correct" figure because of the strike in the RBI for some time earlier this year.

Overdrafts beyond a limit created difficulties for any State, Mr Barot said and added that it was to the State's advantage to reduce it. He suggested that the State Government put its financial house in order.

The Minister claimed, however, that despite various constraints, production in the country had gone up in all sectors. Till August this year, power generation had increased by 15 per cent, production of coal 9.9 per cent and earnings from

railway and other traffic by 15 per cent. There had been considerable improvement in the production of steel, cement, sugar as well as industrial items. He declined, however, to reply to a question why huge stocks of steel were lying unsold at different steel plants and at Bombay port. It was for Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Commerce Minister, to answer the question, he said.

Discussing the Centre's plans for rural development, Mr Barot said that till the end of last year, the banks had advanced Rs 66 crores at differential rates of interest to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The banks had been asked to give emphasis on lendings to the poor at these interest rates. Rural families with an annual income of up to Rs 2,000 and urban families earning up to Rs 3,000 were eligible for bank loans at these rates for self-employment.

The Minister said that the Centre had decided to increase bank loans to the agricultural sector to 16 per cent by 1985. Even if the banks could not achieve this 50 per cent of the advances would be given to small landholders, artisans and the self-employed in villages. According to him, the Centre also had plans to bring 1.5 crore people above the poverty line during the Sixth Plan. For this purpose, Government agencies and commercial banks would identify 600 families every year in each block in the country and help them with loans and subsidy.

Mr H. N. Datta Gupta, president of the Chamber, suggested that banks give to agricultural and other rural development projects more credit on liberal terms. He pleaded that the Centre examine the possibility of reducing the interest rates of bank loans to the tea gardens in the eastern region since these were beset with problems.

CSO: 4220/7173

MORE CONTROL OF FOREIGN MISSION ARMS PROPOSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Oct 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 3--After the recent involvement of some Iraqi diplomats in a shooting incident in Delhi, the Government of India is taking steps to enforce stricter control on possession of firearms by foreign missions to eliminate the grey areas of law relating to the import and re-export of weapons by them.

Three of the five Iraqis, who had opened fire on the Iranian demonstrators near their Embassy premises, are being sent back to Baghdad in the next few days, and the other two would follow a week later if the pleas for reconsidering their cases are rejected by the Government.

All these years the Government has been turning a blind eye at the import of firearms by diplomats as part of their personal baggage, because the Vienna Convention is pretty vague on the subject. It has hitherto raised no objections to diplomats importing firearms and sporting weapons of standard bore, nor insisted on licensing them.

Clandestine Import

The trouble has arisen over the growing tendency of some of the foreign missions to import clandestinely weapons of prohibited bores normally used by the army and the police. The Government is well aware that some of the diplomats have exceeded all limits of tolerance by bringing in automatic weapons which is not permissible under any convention.

It is generally assumed that such weapons, whether of permitted or prohibited bores, are brought in with or without declaration as part of personal baggage, or smuggled in through the diplomatic bag without the knowledge of the Government. It is possible for the Customs authorities to exercise a stricter check on what can be deemed to be personal baggage, but there is no unanimity at the international level on what should legitimately constitute a diplomatic bag that cannot be subjected to any inspection.

The International Law Commission, of which India is a member, has been looking into this problem to define the size and contents of a diplomatic bag, determine

whether it is absolutely inviolable, and what should be done when the host has reasonable suspicion that it is being misused for purposes for which it is not intended under the Geneva Convention. It is India's contention that, in the event of some doubt about the nature of the contents, there is no harm in subjecting a diplomatic bag to electronic inspection.

Vienna Convention

Though the 25-member Commission is generally agreed on the need for some sort of surveillance to prevent smuggling of arms, narcotics and even bullion, it is sharply divided on the degree of discretion a host country should exercise in asserting its right of inspection within the framework of the Vienna Convention. The Indian view is that the secrecy of the documents in a diplomatic bag cannot be violated by merely checking it with electronic gadgets for any hidden weapons.

In the old days, a diplomatic bag was only a sealed pouch, which was brought in by a courier on his person. But over the years, it has assumed the dimensions of a big postal bag weighing a quintal or more, with each mission receiving at regular intervals several such consignments of varying sizes and weights. There was an instance recently when a foreign mission tried to bring in a highly sophisticated portable computer for some undisclosed purpose.

Second Class Bags

A country like India, which is quite new to this game used to indulge in some innocent violations in the early years of its independence. The horrified Customs at Delhi airport had to call the Chief of Protocol to inspect an Indian diplomatic bag dripping with oil, and it was discovered on opening it that some jars of pickle were being sent along with some highly secret foreign policy documents.

From then on, the Government introduced the system of second class diplomatic bags for permitting on a quota basis the Indian personnel stationed abroad to import edible articles and other gift packets from relations.

CSO: 4220/7175

ENGINEERING EXPORTS REPORTED TO INCREASE EIGHTFOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] Bangalore, September 29 (UNI)—The country's engineering exports have registered an impressive near eight-fold increase in the last one decade with an annual average growth rate of 27.5 per cent.

The exports, which were a mere Rs. 115.76 crores in 1970-71, jumped to an estimated Rs. 900 crores in 1980-81 with the southern region alone contributing to over 12 per cent of the growth, according to the Engineering Export Promotion Council.

In the southern region, the exports went up from Rs. 15.17 crores in the beginning of the decade to over Rs. 100 crores in 1980-81. Capital goods and consumer durables contributed to the bulk of the engineering exports from the southern region comprising Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka accounted for nearly 90 per cent of the exports with an export of Rs. 49.27 crores and 47.01 crores, respectively, last year.

A significant percentage of the exports had gone to develop West European markets and South-East Asia constituted the major market for Indian engineering goods among the developing nations.

Mr. Kumar Mahadevan, chairman, EEPC (southern region), told a party of newsmen, which visited the engineering units in Madras and Bangalore recently, that power was the major constraint to boosting engineering exports. Port facilities in the country should be expanded.

Mr. Mahadevan also suggested that the states could allocate specific quota of critical inputs such as power and cement to export units on a uniform basis. Such an idea had been successfully tried out in Haryana, he said.

Madras (PTI): The setting up of two units on a priority basis for manufacturing electronic equipment in the public sector has been suggested.

Mr. H. R. Bapu Sitaram, general manager and executive director of the public sector, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore, told a party of visiting newsmen last week that the exact location had not been decided though they would be outside Karnataka.

He said production in the two units, with an expected turnover of Rs. 60 crores in the next five years, would be rationalised.

Mr. Sitaram said a glass shell unit was likely to be set up near Bombay where one million pieces would be produced.

CSO: 4220/7146

TASK FORCE STUDIES EXPORT-PROCESSING ZONES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Oct 81 p 5

[Article by L. K. Sharma]

[Text] New Delhi, October 4--The mounting trade deficit and the phenomenal success of the free trade zones in Sri Lanka and South-East Asia have brought about a change in the government's thinking on export-processing zones.

It is examining what more incentives can be given to the entrepreneurs in the free trade zones and whether new zones could be established in the face of demand for these by several states.

A task force headed by Mr. Prakash Tandon is at present studying the working of the existing zones and the feasibility of setting up additional free zones. The task force includes representatives of different ministries and has Mr. K. G. Ramanathan, joint secretary in the commerce ministry, as its member-secretary. The government is expected to announce by April next year a package of measures to promote the free trade zones.

The states, which have demanded the establishment of free trade zones, are Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Goa and Pondicherry.

Present Zones

The present zones in Kandla and Santa Cruz have taken a long time to pick up and it is only during the last two years that their performance has shown some improvement.

In Kandla, a general production zone started in 1965. There are 56 units from which exports amounted to Rs. 2,551 lakhs last year. Significantly, the product pattern and the size of the units have been changing. Till 1976, simple goods like stainless steel utensils, embroidered sarees, roasted peanut and plastic goods were produced. Now the exports from the zone include capacitors, fur fabrics, machine-made woollen carpets, acrylic knitwear and cosmetics. There are also units with foreign collaboration.

The Santa Cruz Electronics Export-Processing Zone, which was started in 1974, has 37 projects with a total investment of Rs. 13 crores. It exported goods

worth Rs. 1,880 lakhs last year. The free trade zone in the area of electronics was considered vital since in the ordinary course, licensing delays would make the technology obsolete by the time the project got going.

For long, not much official attention was paid to the languishing free trade zones. There was complacency because of the satisfactory foreign exchange position in the mid-seventies. Then came the Janata government which did not believe in export-led growth. There are still some inhibitions about following the development model of Sri Lanka or Philippines but the new realities of the trade deficit and the foreign exchange situation have compelled the government to revise its thinking.

The government has already announced a scheme for cent per cent export-oriented units in areas other than the free trade zones. The task force will also examine how this scheme would affect the free trade zones.

The zones enjoy several concessions, including exemption from the payment of import duty on capital goods, raw materials and components. In the last budget, the government announced a tax holiday for five initial assessment years to the units in both the free trade zones.

These incentives are still no match for those offered by the free trade zones in Sri Lanka and South-East Asia. The Sri Lanka zone, for example, places no limits on equity holding of foreign investors and allows free transfers of shares within or outside the island. There are no import duties and exchange control procedures. It offers a tax holiday up to 10 years and a further concessionary period. Little wonder that this zone in our neighbourhood was able to attract 121 projects within the first two years and now employs more than 35,000 workers.

The entrepreneurs in the India free trade zones have been asking for permission to sell part of their production in the domestic market. There has been criticism of the present decision-making machinery and procedures and the infra-structural facilities in the zones.

The Indian investor, who enters the zone often finds that his expectations are not fulfilled. The foreign investor compares the zone with others in the neighbourhood and sees the Indian one as less attractive. The controlled Indian industrial environment does not permit the free trade zone to be as free as the foreign investor would like it to be.

CSO: 4220/7178

ISRO DEVELOPS TECHNOLOGY FOR POLYOL PRODUCTION

Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] Cochin, Sept. 25--One spin off from space research in the country is the scope provided by its results for commercial exploitation.

A joint sector project between the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) and Fibro Plast Private Limited, Cochin, is to come up near Kuttippuram (Malappuram district) in Kerala based on the technology developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation for the manufacture of polyols from castor oil.

Polyols are the raw material for a variety of flexible and rigid polyurethane foams which find application in such areas as mattresses and cushions, insulation for refrigerators, cold storages and air conditioning systems, fish net floats, paints and varnishes, anti-corrosion coating materials, roof insulation for railway and road coaches, flush doors, decorative furniture, shoe soles and printing rollers.

Polyols are manufactured from petroleum derivatives. ISRO developed its technology for producing polyols from castor oil during the work on a solid propellant for rockets.

Mr. V. R. Menon, General Manager (Technical) of KSIDC, said the Corporation was investing 40 per cent of the investment of Rs. 97 lakhs on the project because this was a 'special project.' In the normal course KSIDC financial participation in a joint sector project would be only to the tune of 26 per cent, he said.

Patents: Mr. Menon said ISRO held Indian and international patents for this technology and it was for the first time that a major technology was developed for commercial exploitation in the joint sector. ISRO would be providing comprehensive engineering support for setting up the plant which is expected to go on stream within 15 months from now.

At present, Mr. Menon said, India imported about 1,000 tonnes of polyols but it was mainly used for the manufacture of flexible foams. The polyols to be manufactured in the new project which would have an annual capacity of 1,000 tonnes, would be, to begin with, for the manufacture of rigid foams.

There were over a dozen units manufacturing flexible foams in the country.

Mr. G. K. Kuruville, Manager, Propellant Fuel Complex in ISRO, said already, a few other technologies developed by ISRO had been released for commercial exploitation like manufacture of plasticides (Andhra Pradesh Small Scale Industries Corporation), pressure transducers (a private firm in Lucknow) and metal fire fighting powder (a private firm in Gujarat which will commence production shortly).

Mr. U. T. Menon, Managing Director of Castols (India) Limited, said the project would employ about 75 persons. Besides it would open up several opportunities for setting up downstream units, particularly in the small scale sector.

CSO: 4220/7128

SCIENTISTS CHALLENGE THEORY OF SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Sep 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 25.

Physicists at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) here claim to have obtained massive evidence that challenges the 24-year-old theory of superconductivity for which three Americans won a Nobel prize in 1957.

Superconductivity is a fascinating phenomenon exhibited by certain materials which abruptly lose all their electrical resistance when cooled to very low temperatures.

Using this property, tremendously huge magnets can be built employing superconducting coils because such magnets do not consume electric power. But these magnets have to be kept at very low temperatures less than -250 degrees Celsius.

Now the three NPL physicists — Dr. S. N. Ekbote, Dr. S. K. Gupta and Dr. A. V. Narlikar (younger brother of the astrophysicist Dr. Jayant Narlikar) — have postulated a new theory of superconductivity that can potentially enable construction of superconducting magnets operating at higher temperatures, easy to maintain and control.

Old theory: Physicists at Max Planck Institute in Karlsruhe, West Germany, have already started work to verify the new theory and develop methods for the search of promising superconducting materials.

Dr. Narlikar and his colleagues first reported their work at a conference in Germany in March this year.

The scientists said their experiments

on three different types of superconducting materials have shown positive evidence that the superconducting phenomenon is not explained by the currently held theory.

According to the theory proposed in 1957 by the Nobel prize winners Dr. John Bardeen, Dr. Leon Cooper and Dr. John Schrieffer, superconductivity arose due to the "pairing" of oppositely spinning conduction electrons in the material.

They said the pairing took place due to the influence of the vibrations of the crystal lattice (phonons).

Dr. Narlikar and his colleagues said their experiments have for the first time shown that electron pairs are formed not due to phonons but due to magnetic interactions of the spinning electrons.

Dr. Ekbote said the technique called "conduction Electron Spin Resonance (CESR)" was used by them for the first time to study the electrons in the superconducting state.

Many uses: Asked about the implications of their discovery, the scientists said it might help develop newer compounds that can become superconductors at temperatures higher than for the presently known materials.

If such materials are found, the day will come soon when superconductivity can be exploited for industrial uses like magnets for producing fusion energy, energy storage and high speed transport on rails. — PTI.

CSO: 4220/7128

SEMINAR ON ELECTRONICS COMPONENTS INDUSTRY HELD

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] Bangalore, Sept. 25 (PTI)--Union Minister of State for Science and Technology C. P. N. Singh, today underscored the need for a balanced, viable base for electronic components, which was essential to make the electronics industry self-reliant.

The component sector had confined itself to producing out-dated high-priced items, he said. The absence of research and the prevailing sellers' market had perpetuated the situation which was "highly detrimental to the growth of the electronics industry."

Inaugurating a national seminar here on the "Electronic Components Industry--Status and Prospects" the Minister expressed concern at the lack of emphasis on production of professional grade components, which had resulted in needless imports.

"This is a very unhappy situation and deserves urgent attention" the Minister said.

To expedite all aspects of industrial licensing for components the Government had set up an inter-departmental task force. Existing units were being encouraged to expand and modernise their technological base. "New capacities are being created on an internationally viable basis because of the immense potential for export of components, he said.

New entrepreneurs had shown keen desire to enter the components area, but initiative from existing units was lacking, he said.

The seminar has been organised jointly by the Karnataka state electronics development corporation and the Electronics Components Industries Association (ELCINA).

Karnataka Chief Minister R. Gundu Rao in his presidential address said his State produced Rs 250 crore worth of electronic goods out of the country's total production of Rs 700 crore. To help integrated development of the industry, his Government had taken up the construction of a pollution-free "electronic city" near Bangalore. He invited entrepreneurs to make full use of the facilities provided.

Mr M. Wadhwa, president of ELCINA, said outmoded technology and limited capacity had hampered production of quality components. India lagged behind other countries in technology by at least 15 years. He called for delicensing of electronic industries at least for five years and abolition of import duty on capital goods used in the manufacture of electronic components.

CSO: 4220/7130

KOLHAN TRIBALS REPORTED TO WANT INDEPENDENCE

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 27 Sep 81 p 7

[Text]

PATNA, Sept. 26.—The underground movement for the creation of an independent sovereign State for Kolhan tribals took a new turn with Mr Narayan Joke and Mr C. A. Topno, legal advisers of the self-styled Kolhan Government, reportedly leaving for the United Nations and the Commonwealth headquarters last fortnight to place their case before international authorities. The Kolhan area comprises the predominantly tribal regions of Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh around the old Chaibasa sub-division.

A Press release recently issued to local reporters at Chaibasa by Mr K. C. Hembrom, State secretary of the so-called Kolhan Government, said that their legal advisers had been deputed to seek interviews with leaders of different world panels with a view to mobilising support for their cause.

They would, the Press release added, also visit Germany, France and some other countries for the purpose. The release denounced what they described as suppression of tribals by the Bihar Government.

The secessionists case, according to the release, is that the Kolhan area had "never merged with the Indian Union during or after the transfer of power by the British Government". Their area, there-

Official sources in the State capital confirmed that "some anti-national elements" had been active in Chotanagpur. But they did not confirm if the legal advisers of the self-styled Kolhan Government had really slipped out of the country.

The sources alleged that some tribals, aided and abetted by a few foreign missionaries, had been trying to build up a secessionist movement in and around Chaibasa. The foreign missionaries had their offices in Goa and Bangalore too, the sources added.

However, observers here wonder why the Bihar Government had been trying to curb the activities of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha—an organization which had been acting as a counter-force in the area lately. The Morcha leaders, time and again, have denounced the activities of the secessionists. And significantly, the Congress (I) and the Morcha were poll partners last time.

CSO: 4220/7131

RESURGENCE OF NAXALITE ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 27 Sep 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

MR Tarapada Basu (40), a sub-inspector of Calcutta Police attached to the Special Branch, was shot dead near Dolpiri Bazar, at Ariadaha in the 24-Parganas, on Saturday morning.

The Police suspect that pro Lin-Biao group of Naxalites, led by Mr Nisith Bhattacharyya and Mr Azimul Haque, to be behind the killing. Several posters and leaflets denouncing the administration and the police and urging the people to take to the path of annihilation were found by the police at the place of the incident.

According to senior officials, about four to five men attacked Mr Basu while he was starting his scooter after shopping at the market. He reportedly tried to grapple with them, but was gunned down. The assailants escaped after the incident.

He was taken to the local hospital, where he died shortly afterwards. The body bore four to five bullet wounds. Later, the police found two empty cartridges at the spot. The cartridges were from "small firearms", the officials said. No arrest has been made so far.

Mr Basu was reportedly attached to the section of the Special Branch which deals with Naxalites. He lived in the police quarters at Belghoria.

The incident seemed to have surprised and confused police officials both in Calcutta and the 24-Parganas, since no policeman had been murdered in Calcutta and its neighbouring suburbs since the early seventies, when the Naxalite movement was at its peak.

The last murder of a policeman in West Bengal occurred in 1980, when alleged pro Lin-Biao supporters attacked a police camp and snatched away several arms.

Senior officials, including the Superintendent of Police, 24-Parganas, the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, the Deputy Inspector-General of the Criminal Investigation Branch and the Deputy Commissioner of the Special Branch, visited the spot.

A senior police official said, however, that no special alert had been issued following the incident. He said policemen throughout the State had already been asked to be wary of extremists.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation Department has been entrusted with the investigation.

Mr A. K. Sen, Chief Secretary to the West Bengal Government, told reporters at Writers Building during the day that Naxalite activities, including involvement in violent incidents, were assuming a serious proportion in eight of the 18 districts of the State. The districts were the 24-Parganas, Birbhum, Nadia, West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Darjeeling and Burdwan.

Although Naxalites had not till now involved themselves in violent incidents in Calcutta, they had increased their operations in the city considerably without attracting publicity. The people must be alert against renewed Naxalite activities, he added.

Public opinion was to be mobilized and the people's cooperation sought to identify and track down the Naxalites, Mr Sen said. It was learnt that the police had requested the State Government to give it powers similar to those envisaged in the Preventive Detention

Act which had helped it counter Naxalite violence in the past.

Till September 15 this year, Naxalites were allegedly involved in 35 violent incidents in which 27 people were killed and 13 injured, including nine policemen. As many as 1,293 people were arrested in connexion with these incidents. The number of rifles snatched was 74, of which 36 were recovered. Ten such incidents occurred in West Dinajpur and eight in Nadia.

In 1980, there were 31 incidents in which 23 people were killed and 23 injured. Among those killed were two policemen. West Dinajpur recorded the highest number of deaths, 14 last year. In 1979, six people were killed in nine incidents.

Mr Sen alleged that the murders had been committed by the pro Lin Biao group of Naxalites, led by Mr Azimul Haque and Mr Nisith Bhattacharyya, which believed in secret killings and collection of arms.

HEAVY INDUSTRY UNITS REACH 98 PERCENT TARGET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] Public sector undertakings under the Department of Heavy Industry achieved 98 per cent production target in August 1981. This was 30 per cent higher compared to the production during the same period last year.

The production achieved in August 1981 was Rs 121.89 crores, which is 98 per cent of the target of Rs 124.23 crores.

This production of Rs 121.89 crores is higher by 30 per cent compared to Rs 93.42 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Production of these units cumulatively during five months--April to August 1981--was Rs 493 crores which is 91 per cent of the target of Rs 542.65 crores. This production is 22 per cent higher compared to the same period last year.

Among the six public sector undertakings which exceeded their targets during August included HMT (110 per cent), Burn Standard Co Ltd (131 per cent) and Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd (113 per cent).

Units which fell short of achieving their targets included Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (97 per cent), Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd (92 per cent) and Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co Ltd (89 per cent).

For the period April-August 1981 the production figures were: HMT (112 per cent), Burn Standard (113 per cent) and BHEL (87 per cent).

Industries which have recorded significant increases in production during April-August 1981 over the corresponding period of the previous year are cement machinery (64.4 per cent), cars (105 per cent), mopeds (59 per cent), commercial vehicles (42 per cent), tractors (33 per cent) and railway wagons (33 per cent).

However, production of sugar and paper and pulp machinery showed a decline during April-August 1981.

CSO: 4220/7144

HYDERABAD FACTORY TO MAKE LIGHT VEHICLES

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Oct 81 p 7

[Text] Hyderabad, Sept. 30--The Central Government has granted a letter of intent to Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Limited, a State Government company, for annual production of 10,000 light commercial vehicles such as mini-buses, pick-up vans and small trucks.

This will be the first public sector company in the country to enter the field of commercial vehicles production. At present, the production of commercial vehicles is completely in the hands of the private sector.

The letter of intent granted to Allwyn covers a wide range of vehicles up to three-tonne pay-load.

This was announced by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. T. Anjiah and the State Minister for Industry, Mr. M. Baga Reddi, here on Wednesday.

The project is proposed to be located in Medak district, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi's constituency. It will provide direct employment to about 10,000 persons, besides generating indirect employment in the many ancillary industries expected to grow up in and around Medak district. It will also help to optimise the capacity of various automobile ancillary units in and around Hyderabad.

Allwyn is negotiating with a number of leading automobile companies for technical and financial collaboration for the production of light commercial vehicles. A number of teams from Japan and elsewhere have already visited the facilities at Allwyn and confirmed that it is in a good position to take up production of such vehicles.

Allwyn already has a letter of intent for the manufacture of integral buses and has been building bus bodies with know-how from Park Royal, London, a subsidiary of British Leyland. It is also manufacturing scooters under the name of "Allwyn Pushpak."

At present it is negotiating with a number of international companies for production of mini-motor cycles and mopeds as part of its programme of expansion and diversification.

CSO: 4220/7164

FOOD MINISTER SINGH HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Oct 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] India may import more foodgrains, Food and Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh said on Wednesday.

At a press conference, he also announced that the minimum sugarcane price for the new crushing season would be Rs 13 a quintal, same as in the last season.

Mr Singh said that no tea had yet gone abroad for purchase of foodgrains. However, additional imports would not be ruled out.

He would not say categorically that more imports were planned but added that additional quantities may be purchased, for "the hoarders cannot be allowed to hold the field to themselves, unchecked."

Mr Singh justified imports saying that recent imports of foodgrains, sugar and edible oils had the desired sobering effect on domestic prices.

Asked how imported sugar would be distributed, he said that the stocks were put to auction, but private bidders did not offer a reasonable price. Unless a good price was offered, the sugar would be kept as buffer stock or diverted for consumption through the public distribution system.

Mr Singh viewed the recent rainfall as "very beneficial" not only for the standing kharif crop but also for rabi sowing. He claimed that the kharif prospects this year were "better than last year."

He estimated that the kharif yield would exceed last year's record figure of 79 million tonnes.

In Gujarat, a bumper groundnut crop was expected, he also added.

Levy Sugar

Mr Singh said the levy price for sugar was still being worked out. However, since the formula for calculation was the same as for the last season, he did not expect much of a change in the levy price.

Asked about the ratio of levy and free sale sugar fixed for the sugar mills, Mr Birendra Singh said: "We have not yet decided that."

He said the concessions to mills for early and late crushing were proposed to be continued.

Mr Birendra Singh said the minimum price fixed for sugarcane was not likely to affect adversely the interests of the farmer as was evident last year. Last year, he pointed out, farmers got as much as Rs 26 a quintal for sugarcane.

CSO: 4220/7162

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BODY TO SEEK LOAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Bombay, September 28--The Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC) proposes to raise \$350 million from the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank. Negotiations for this line of credit are expected to be concluded in November. A World Bank team was here recently in this connection.

Disclosing this in Bombay today, Mr. M. Ramakrishnayya, deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India and chairman of ARDC, told newsmen that this money would be made available to the ARDC by the Centre in rupees for disbursements in 1982 and 1983.

He said the third \$250-million IDA-assisted ARDC credit project was for the period ending December, 1981, but was expected to be exhausted earlier.

For the year ending June, 1982, the corporation had set a target for the total disbursements of Rs. 550 crores against the actual record disbursements of Rs. 499 crores during 1980-81.

Mr. Ramakrishnayya said that the overall overdues of member banks were nearly 50 per cent.

He pointed out that a few years ago, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar and Tamil Nadu had shown unsatisfactory performance in the matter of overdues.

Mr. Ramakrishnayya said that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was expected to be set up soon. ARDC would be merged with this apex institution, which would be concerned not only with long-term but also short-term agricultural credit. He said Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd. (AFC) might remain as a separate entity under the style Agricultural Finance Consultants Ltd. and would look after only consultancy work as at present.

CSO: 4220/7141

SHORTFALL IN MANIPUR AUTUMN HARVEST PREDICTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] Imphal, Sept. 26 (PTI)--Manipur expects to harvest this year a kharif crop of about 2,32,000 tonnes against last year's output of 2,90,000, official sources said here today.

Sources attributed the shortfall in production to a long spell of drought this year and consequent reduction in the area under paddy to 9,17,000 hectares from 1,14,900 hectares last year.

1,200 hectares in Thoubal and Bishenpur subdivisions, the rice bowl of Manipur, could not be cultivated due to waterlogging caused by excessive rainfall, while another 10,500 hectares in Thoubal area were hit by drought, they added.

On Sixth Plan agricultural programme, sources said, it was proposed to introduce improved agronomical practices in 'Jhum' land and set up potato production farms at high altitude areas.

The physical target for the former is 1,000 hectares during the Plan period spread over all the hill district of the State. This programme envisaged supply of incentives for jungle clearance, wood collection and ploughing of valleys for growing rabi, beside demonstrations deploying staff of the agricultural department.

Potato production farms would be set up at Ukhrul in Manipur East district where quality seed would be supplied to cultivators to ensure optimum production to meet not only the State's needs but also neighbouring States, sources added.

CSO: 4220/7135

STATES CONFER ON 1981-82 AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Sep 81 p 15

[Text] New Delhi, September 28 (UNI)--State government representatives at a two-day regional meeting held here to discuss ways of effectively implementing agricultural development programmes during 1981-82 have indicated that they have adequate supplies of fertilisers, pesticides and seeds to meet the requirements of both the kharif and the rabi crop.

At this first of six meetings, proposed to be held by the department of agriculture and co-operation during the current agricultural year, the representatives, in the discussion on rabi production strategy, laid emphasis on the proper use of available water resources and the gearing-up of the extension machinery for quick transfer of technology to the farmers.

They also indicated the need for increased consumption of fertilisers and good-quality seeds, having larger areas under high-yielding varieties, integrated pest control and surveillance, and ensuring availability of weedicides for control of phalaris minor and wild oats.

Animal Husbandry

The meeting, which concluded here yesterday, also discussed allied subjects like animal husbandry, dairy development, fishery, forestry, co-operation and agricultural credit, and constituted various working groups for in-depth discussion of the various subjects on the agenda.

Those attending noted with satisfaction that the drought-affected states of Punjab and Haryana had arranged for power supply to farmers for 12 to 14 hours a day providing life-saving irrigation to the standing kharif crop and had also provided them with adequate supplies of diesel.

To synchronise water release from irrigation projects like Bhakra, the meeting recommended representation of the states concerned on the Bhakra management board during the coming season.

The meeting further urged the states to make the fullest use of the facilities available at the fertiliser, pesticide and seed-testing laboratories to check the quality of inputs like seeds and fertilisers. It recommended deterrent action against those found guilty of adulteration.

The meeting laid emphasis on the development of post-harvesting facilities like marketing, processing and storage in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. It called for building up a reliable data base for horticultural crops and implementing the World Bank-assisted projects in these areas.

Cross-Breeding Plans

In the animal husbandry sector, the meeting recommended that states like Punjab and Haryana having high buffalo concentration should assign priority to buffalo development programmes, with emphasis on cattle cross-breeding programmes to increase milk production.

The meeting noted that all the four states represented--Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir--have successfully completed preparations for the implementation of Operation Flood-II project.

In the fisheries sector, the states were urged to take measures to promote production of fish seed to improve the development of inland fisheries in these states. In this connection, the meeting recommended the setting up of fish-seed farms and hatcheries.

Regarding forestry, the meeting emphasised the need for accelerating afforestation in these states since the percentage of the forest area is much below that recommended under the national forest policy. It said that in Haryana and Punjab, possibilities lie only in the development of agro-forestry under the social forestry programme.

The conference was addressed by, amongst others, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, member, planning commission.

CSO: 4220/7141

DELHI ACCUSED OF REDUCING BENGAL WHEAT QUOTA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] Bangalore, Oct. 4--The West Bengal Revenue Minister, Mr Benoy Krishna Chaudhury, has alleged that the Central allotment of wheat to his State under the food-for-work programme (now renamed the National Rural Economic Development Programme) had been "reduced deliberately."

He told a Press conference here today that West Bengal had asked for 40,000 tons of wheat under the programme in order to provide employment to 26 million unemployed and partially-employed agricultural workers in the State. Till now it had received less than 12,000 tons. As a result the State Government was forced to reduce the quantum of grain given to those employed from 3 kg to 1 kg and increase the cash component from Rs 2 to Rs 4.50. Owing to meagre wheat supplies from the Centre, even the one kilogram of grain was given in the form of either wheat or rice.

The Minister said the State Government had provided Rs 24 crores for the cash component of the programme. Of this Rs 12 crores had to come from the Centre. But even this was not forthcoming. "The Centre has sanctioned only Rs 6 crores which has remained confined to paper," he said.

Mr Chaudhury, who is also president of All-Kisan Sabha, was disappointed with the Centre's recent decision to fix cane price at Rs 13 per quintal and that of paddy at Rs 115. Taking into consideration the cost of inputs and cultivation, these were not remunerative prices. They were less than those recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission.

The Minister said that the West Bengal Bill to amend the Land Reforms Act was now awaiting the President's assent. The amendments aimed at the plugging in the Act loopholes were utilized by landowners to declare large areas as non-agricultural land, he said. Under the Act, only about 500,000 hectares was vested in the Government as surplus. With the amendment, another 600,000 hectares would be available for distribution among landless workers.

Mr Chaudhury said the amendments proposed to do away with all exemptions provided for in the Land Reforms Act. Three conditions were laid down for self-cultivation. The owner had to prove that his main source of income was from the land and that he was living within 8 km of it, he and members of his family would have to

cultivate the land. Occasionally, he could employ labour. The Minister said a Government committee appointed three years ago, had made a survey of tea gardens in West Bengal to determine the area actually under cultivation and the land needed for expansion. Surplus land would be taken over by the State-owned Tea Corporation, he said.

CSO: 4220/7180

FOODGRAIN STOCK REPORTED TO BE SATISFACTORY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 5--Optimistic about the procurement of paddy, the Minister for Agriculture today clarified that the country had a satisfactory stock of foodgrain to last one year. But the picture is not as bright as it is sought to be painted officially.

The Minister's clarification was intended to allay fears about depleting stock of foodgrain. Though the Ministry did not give statistics about the present level of foodgrain, it was happy to note that the procurement of wheat at 6.57 million tons was the second highest figure till now though it fell short of the target 9.5 million tons.

While referring to "adequate stocks," not only does the Ministry pin its hopes on the coming procurement of paddy, but points out to the arrival of wheat from the USA. Two ships carrying 73,000 tons of wheat have already arrived from that country. The third ship carrying 30,000 tons is expected to reach Mangalore by day after tomorrow. The fourth ship with 20,000 tons of wheat is expected to reach Cochin on the 17th of this month.

Besides, three super tankers carrying 260,000 tons of wheat are scheduled to reach India soon. The wheat imported from the USA is to be stored in the south from where movement is easy. With the arrival of 1.5 million tons of wheat from the USA and bright prospects of paddy procurement, the Ministry does not anticipate any shortage. On the contrary, it expects a smooth sailing for at least one year.

But the Ministry is not able to hide its anxiety about foodstocks. A buffer stock about 15 million tons is regarded ideal. The Government is on record that the total foodstocks stood at 9.80 million tons on April 1. In addition, 6.57 million tons of wheat procured by State agencies and 1.5 million tons of wheat imported from the USA made a total of 17.87 million tons.

Monthly withdrawal from the central pool for the States has increased steadily from one million tons to 1.25 million tons. This means that the present stocks minus the imported wheat is around 10 million tons, which is not a very comfortable position.

That explains why the Government will not mind to import more wheat "if necessary" in case the kharif crop does not come up to its expectation and there is no problem about foreign exchange.

The recent advice of the Centre to the paddy-growing States to make suitable changes in their rules with a view to maximizing procurement is an index of Krishi Bhavan's anxiety about the foodstocks.

CSO: 4220/7185

OIL MINISTER TALKS TO PRESS IN INDORE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] Indore, Oct 3 (PTI)--Imports of petroleum products and crude oil is likely to fall from next year as a result of additional availability of oil from new sources in the country, Union Minister for Petroleum P. C. Sethi said here today.

The reduction in imports would result in a saving of Rs 1400 crore of foreign exchange, Mr Sethi told in a press conference.

He estimated the fall in import volume to be five to six million tonnes in petroleum products and two million tonnes in crude oil.

The Union Minister said there were indications of oil reserves at a point 35 km South-West of Bombay in the Konkan region.

The new find, 35 km away from the sea coast near the Palk Straits, had indicated availability of good quality of light oil, he said and added that the flow at this place was higher as compared to that at the B-57 structure of Bombay High. The commercial viability of the find would be known only after further investigation and tests.

The production at Bombay High was likely to reach 16 million tonnes by the end of this year, Mr Sethi added.

The country was at present importing 2.5 million tonnes of light oil from Saudi Arabia.

Fertiliser Plant

Mr Sethi said the final survey report for setting up the Rs 800-crore fertiliser plant based on Bombay High gas was not yet ready and hence there was no question of selecting Sawai Madhopur for location of the plant as reported in a section of press.

He said the survey report was likely to be available to the Government some time later this month. The survey was being undertaken to choose the best site from among Guna, Ratlam, Mandsaur and Budni in Madhya Pradesh and Sawai Madhopur and Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

The Minister added that prospects of oil finds are bright in the Konkan region of Maharashtra and experts were busy with experiments and survey work.

CSO: 4220/7176

EXPERT PREDICTS SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN OIL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Oct 81 p 14

[Text] New Delhi, October 4 (UNI)--A United Nations Development Programme oil expert has predicted that India could become self-sufficient in oil within the next ten years through enhanced recovery in existing fields and coverage of new areas.

Dr. N. Mungan, an expert on petroleum recovery who made an evaluation of India's capability of recovering maximum oil, told UNI that the average recovery of oil in India was only 20 per cent.

This meant that India was at the moment extracting only one-fifth of the oil available and the remaining four-fifths of the known reserves were left untapped.

The total oil production now in India is about 15 million tonnes. By using sophisticated equipment and technology, if 40 per cent of the reserves could be extracted, India's oil production could be doubled.

Dr. Mungan, who was here at the invitation of the government of India, had recommended that the institute of reservoir studies in Ahmedabad be funded in a significant way for the next two or three years.

Pat for Institute

Dr. Mungan, who has specialised in enhanced oil and gas recovery methods, said that the institute, set up in 1978, was doing a very good job. Part of the funds which he recommended could be in foreign exchange from UNDP, so that sophisticated equipment which was not available in India could be purchased for the institute. He was optimistic that the government of India and UNDP would realise the importance of the institute and make the necessary funds available.

He had discussions with the institute and Oil and Natural Gas Commission authorities on the characteristics of the oilfields in India, and the best recovery process for each of the oilfields.

Dr. Mungan said that he was impressed by the activities of India in the field of oil exploration, "even though these activities were relatively of recent times."

In North America, 40 per cent of the oil reserves was being extracted. India, which had no complicated oilfields, could easily go in for 40 per cent extraction.

Dr. Mungan said even countries like Brazil and France imported 85 per cent of their oil requirements. India, which was comparatively younger in oil exploration, had pulled ahead of a number of countries and was able to meet 50 per cent of its requirements indigenously, he added.

An enhanced recovery of oil could be achieved through water flooding, chemical flooding, miscible flooding, carbon dioxide flooding and by adopting thermal methods.

He said India was interested in carbon dioxide flooding and thermal methods, and the application of these two methods to recover more oil might be adopted in the country in the next two years.

CSO: 4220/7178

INCREASED OIL PRODUCTION EXPECTED IN ASSAM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Sep 81 p 8

[Article by S. Guru Dev]

[Text] Oil exploration and production in the eastern region will get a "real big push" with improved technology, a dynamic strategy of optimization and new concepts of management. Funds are no constraints. Digboi is said to have been created by the pioneering slogan "dig boy, dig." Today's drillers also have their slogans, their towns to create and promises to keep. But the problem is one of pace; the energy crunch antiquates production targets.

ONGC's financial outlay for 1980-85 has yet to be approved. The original plan outlay was Rs 3,370 crores, of which Rs 1,107 crores was earmarked for onshore. The total outlay was revised upwards to Rs 4,788 crores because of the Centre's directive to step up production from offshore fields. An accelerated development plan for the eastern region is under consideration. This crude production plan aims at 12.2 million tons for the eastern region. A restricted document of 1969 hoped that ONGC crude from Assam would touch 1.75 million tons by 1973-74; current production is about 1.70 million tons per annum. Nazira is, however, confident of 2 million tons by the end of the year, 4.10 million tons by 1985-86 and 4.86 million tons by 1990-91.

ONGC, Nazira, came on the oil map with Rudrasagar in 1960 when only two structures, including Desangmukh, had been delineated. Today, the 31 structures taken up for drilling include Desangmukh, Rudrasagar, Lakwa, Geleki, Borholla, Anguri, Charali and Chargola in Assam, Champang in Nagaland and Bagimara and Gopinath Killa in Meghalaya. The perspective plan for 1980-85 envisages increasing the drilling rigs from 14 at present (including Cachar) to 19. Seven oilfields, Rudrasagar, Lakwa (including Lakhmani), Geleki, Anguri, Borholla, Charali and Champang, are regular producers; Demalgaon has yet to be developed.

Experts say that the best-known region for its hydrocarbon potential is the South Brahmaputra valley extending into the Dhansiri valley beyond Borholla up to the Barail ranges. Oil India's Nahorkatiya, Jorajan and Moran fields extend with a break of comparatively unexplored territory into ONGC's commercial fields. Further south is Badarpur where the Burmah Oil Company worked a well in the early twenties, producing 0.32 million tons before abandoning the well in 1932. Known gas fields of Bangladesh, like Chattak, Sylhet, Haripur and Habiganj, lie west of this zone.

Complications

The Cachar project activates exploration after nearly four decades. Drilling on the Chargola structure since July 1977 has primarily been to probe the lower Bhuvan and upper Barail sands adjoining Badarpur. Chargola-1 was abandoned because of severe down hole complications. Barak-1 was found to be oil-bearing; drilling of Chargola-6 is continuing. Scientists hope to strike it rich in this belt in the near future. The belt includes Baramura, Rokhia and Gojalia in Tripura.

The foothills of the Arunachal Himalayas and the north Brahmaputra valley have yet to be drilled by ONGC; geological and geophysical work is being undertaken. Oil India has identified some prospects adjacent to the Mishmi hills in recent drilling. The Patkaibum region extending from Arunachal across Nagaland into the North Cachar hills, Mizo hills and the Manipur ranges is being investigated by ONGC but logistics is a problem, also along the southern foothills of Meghalaya. The area, like the Naga foothills, is characterized by oil and gas leaking from subsurface hidden reservoirs. ONGC is likely to discover some oil fields in the near future; Oil India's Kusijan and Digboi are in this belt. As on January 1 this year, ONGC had established geological reserves of 271.33 million tons of crude and 5,320 million cubic metres of free gas. Of these, the initial recoverable crude reserves are estimated at 58.84 million tons.

In 1971 Oil India sold to the three refineries at Digboi, Gauhati and Barauni 3,103 million tons of crude, the full rated capacity since 1969. The throughput in subsequent years could have varied because of unforeseen refining problems and other factors. The Rs 45-crore pipeline from Duliajan to Barauni (1,157 kilometres) was expanded in 1977-78 at a cost of Rs 50 crores to carry 2.25 million tons per year. The total ONGC crude carried by the pipeline till July 31, 1981, was about 9.58 million tons.

Oil India's loss last year because of the blockade was estimated at Rs 36 crores, which may be recouped in five years considering the rate at which the company can generate profits. The approved outlay for the Sixth Plan (1980-81 to 1984-85) is Rs 127 crores, of which the major part (Rs 169 crores) covers exploration in Arunachal, Orissa and the Bay of Bengal; Rs 97 crores for capital equipment and Rs 19 crores to develop the Jorajan field. About Rs 15 crores is earmarked for the LPG project at Duliajan which should be operational by April 1982. The plant will produce 60,000 tons of LPG and 12,000 tons of natural gasoline, reducing import of kerosene and saving thereby Rs 15.5 crores of foreign exchange a year.

profiles

Not much is known, however, of OIL's recent explorations in Arunachal. After establishing a drilling density of one well for every 23 sq. km. in Assam, the intensity of its Arunachal operations since 1968 is nothing to write about. The terrain is forbidding and discovering oil is a gamble. Nevertheless, one has the feeling that OIL seeks new fields to make up for the declining production from existing wells, not necessarily to augment the current flow. Oil and gas were discovered in five shallow wells at Kharsang in Tirap district. Thirty wells are to be drilled in the next five years. The Kumchal well drilled in 1979

was the deepest ever in India. Reports suggest that Bogapani in the alluvial plains west of Digboi and 50 km east of Duliajan in Upper Assam opens up interesting hydrocarbon prospects. A new oilfield is believed to be in the offing.

Major users of OIL gas include Hindustan Fertilizers, Assam SEB, Assam Petrochemicals, Assam Oil Company, Dum Duma, Tingri and Moran gas grids and small consumers, largely tea estates. Duliajan blames the major consumers for not using their quotas fully. OIL has committed more gas for HFC's phase III expansion. ONGC gas keeps going ASEB's Maibella project at Lakwa, the mobile generating sets at Geleki and some tea gardens. What will happen when the real big push raises production to about 8 million tons, including OIL's, in the late eighties? Can the throughput in the pipeline be increased further by "looping" a larger segment? ONGC officials prefer to cross their bridges when they come to them.

Because of the Assam agitation the IOC refinery at Gauhati processed only 0.639 million tons in the last financial year against a normal throughput of 0.82 million tons. It was "dry" during April and November last year. The refinery has plans to increase its storage facilities. Preliminary work has begun on new projects estimated to cost Rs 10 crores to Rs 12 crores. A naptha splitter facility is being built to cater to the Bongaigaon refinery and Petrochemicals Limited's special feedstock requirement. The facility is to be completed by 1982-83. Other projects include installing cooling towers and an effluent pipeline.

The refinery has ordered from BHEL an 8 MW turbo-generator to ensure uninterrupted power supply. The State Electricity Board has been given the contract for a 33 KV double transmission line from Chandrapur to the refinery to reduce dependence on the captive power plant. All the projects are to be commissioned by 1983 and that presupposes trouble-free working days. Crude processing was interrupted for 66 days in 1980-81 because of bandhs, non-cooperation, etc.

CSO: 4220/7138

MORE DETAILS ON CAUVERY OIL FIND REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 26--The exact location of oil strike in the Cauvery offshore basin announced yesterday is about 50 km from the Vedaranyam coast.

The oil gushing out at the rate of 1,500 barrels a day from the well which has now reached a depth of 3,426 metres is very light and it is presumed sulphur-free.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission will soon be testing a horizon at 200 metres above the depth of 2,301 metres where the oil was earlier struck.

ONGC is not in a position to say at the moment what the potential of the new oil field will be as two or three more assessment wells will have to be drilled. But both the Commission and the Petroleum Ministry are quite hopeful of speeding up the commencement of production once the commercial viability of the field is established and this should not take more than a year and a half.

An advantage with the new oil find is it has occurred at a very shallow depth (the seabed is at a depth of nine metres) and the erection of platforms should be an easier job than in Bombay High.

Hopes of the oil field around the Vedaranyam area giving a substantial yield are based on the fact that the oil has come from rocks estimated to be around 70 to 100 million years old. The locations where ONGC had earlier drilled did not apparently have these rocks and the wells turned out to be dry.

Since the "Gettysberg" has stumbled on these rocks now, it is hoped that the area contains more rocks of this kind and that they would be oil-bearing. The Bombay High rocks are relatively younger.

High-level meetings are now going on at the Petroleum Ministry with senior officials of ONGC and the Finance Ministry to decide the steps to be taken immediately in the wake of the new discovery.

Indications about the presence of oil in the structure where "Gettysberg" has been drilling since July 30 by way of "fluorescence" came nearly two weeks ago, but ONGC and the Petroleum Ministry remained silent as they did not want to give false hopes. Only on the night of September 24 the presence of oil was definitely known.

CSO: 4220/7133

'UNI' REPORTS 14.1 PERCENT RISE IN COAL PRODUCTION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 4--Coal production in the country increased by 14.1 percent in September over the corresponding period last year, reports UNI.

According to an official release issued here today, 9.22 million tons of coal were produced in September 1981, against 8.08 million tons in the same month last year, marking an increase of 1.14 million tons.

Higher production was recorded by all the companies during the month (September 1981) over the corresponding month last year. Coal output at Bharat Coking Coal and Central Coalfield went up by 16 percent each, Western Coalfield 10 percent and Eastern Coalfield 8.8 percent. The Singareni Collieries recorded an increase of 29.6 percent in the month over the corresponding period last year.

The cumulative production during April to September 1981, also recorded an increase of 9.8 percent over the corresponding period last year.

This is against the original growth rate target of 6.1 percent for the whole year, 1981-82, and the raised target of 8.8 percent for the year.

During these six months, 54.94 million tons of coal were produced against 50.02 million tons produced during the corresponding period last year, marking an increase of 4.92 million tons.

Another notable achievement for the coal sector is that the production of 54.94 million tons in April-September 1981 was the highest achieved in a six-month period, surpassing the previous best of 50.02 million tons in April-September 1980.

Coal despatches during September 1981 recorded an increase of 14.9 percent over the corresponding month last year.

During the month, nine million tons of coal were despatched against 7.83 million tons in September 1980.

The cumulative despatches during April-September 1981 were 55.30 million tons, against 49.47 million tons during the corresponding period last year.

CSO: 4220/7180

GAS STRUCK IN TRIPURA'S BARAMURA STRUCTURE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 5--Gas has been struck in the sixth well on the Baramura structure in Tripura, it was announced here today.

Drilling of the sixth well had started on February 18 this year and till September 10, the well had been drilled to a depth of 2,370 metres.

After testing the interval between 2,276 to 2,288 metres, gas started flowing at the rate of 90,000 cubic metres a day through a 6 mm beam at 130 atmospheric pressure.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been exploring for hydrocarbons in Tripura since 1972 and so far, it has drilled six wells there. Gas was found in the first well on the Baramura structure in June 1975, but the subsequent drilling of four wells on the same structure was not successful due to severe difficulties encountered.

The ONGC, however, persisted and further exploration was carried out and once again, succeeded in striking hydrocarbons in Baramura. Further tests are proposed to be carried out to assess the potential of the latest gas find.

Meanwhile, the ONGC is drilling wells on two other structures in Tripura--Gojalia and Rokhia. The Gojalia well is projected to be drilled to a depth of 4,000 metres and the Rokhia well, being drilled with the assistance of Russian experts, will go to a depth of 5,000 metres.

There have been a number of gas finds in the last few years, both onshore and offshore, the largest being south Bassein gas field which has substantial recoverable gas reserves.

In addition to south Bassein, gas has been found in other offshore structures like B-55 and south and mid-Tapti. The total gas availability from these offshore fields is now established at about 20 to 25 million cubic metres a day.

Gas has also been struck in two separate offshore structures in the Andaman Islands and also off Porto Novo near Pondicherry.

In the onshore areas, gas was discovered in the first well in Dahej in Gujarat. A second well is now being drilled there. Gas was also struck at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh some time ago and two further wells are being drilled there.

UNI adds: The State-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has embarked on a Rs 400-crore expansion project in the Sixth Five-Year Plan period.

CSO: 4220/7185

PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS IN STEEL INDUSTRY NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5, 6 Oct 81

[Article by J. D. Singh: "Problems and Prospects in Steel"]

[5 Oct 81 pp 1, 5]

[Text] Plants Face Supply Crisis

The public sector steel industry has been looking up in the past one year. But crisis keeps prowling round the corner like a hungry panther.

The beast has already drawn blood. A reversal of the trend towards infrastructural improvement is noticeable. Complaints are heard once again about shortfalls in coal and power supply and bottlenecks in rail transport.

As production picks up further, the requirements of the steel plants in respect of essential inputs and raw materials, as well as movement of finished products to distribution centres, will increase. The question is whether the authorities concerned will be able to cope with them. There is some doubt about it.

A visit to the steel plants after a gap of five years reveals a picture of great contrasts. In December 1976, the steel managers were exuberant and optimistic. There was a "surplus" of indigenous steel. True, it was the result of low production and lower demand. Still, in theory, there was a surplus. The then steel minister talked bravely of creating a capacity of 75 million tonnes by the end of the century. The target was wholly unrealistic, but it reflected the mood of the moment.

Today, the mood is a mixture of hope and uncertainty. Hope because steel production has picked up since October 1980. In the first six months of 1981-82, the five integrated steel plants under Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) produced 2.609 million tonnes of saleable steel. If this trend continues for the second half of the year, the total output will be 5.218 million tonnes.

This will be much lower than 5.432 million tonnes in 1976-77 and 5.293 million tonnes in 1977-78 (when, incidentally, the installed capacity was less), but substantially higher than the output in any of the previous three years.

Since the step-up in production has been due largely to an improvement in the infrastructure, an element of uncertainty creeps into the scene. Steel managers are apprehensive that infrastructural constraints would reappear in the near future.

The inadequacy of rail transport is a complaint shared by all steel plants. It has caused shortages of raw materials as well as unwanted stockpiles of finished products (like galvanised sheets at Rourkela). The total stock holding with SAIL exceeds seven-lakh tonnes. Rourkela alone holds stocks of 94,000 tonnes and Durgapur, 58,000 tonnes.

It is admitted that there has been some improvement in wagon movement, but this has not been sufficient. One of the problems is that the railways offer large unidirectional rakes, but not loose wagons which can carry the products to all or most of the distribution centres.

While saleable steel stocks have gone up (partly because of a "glut" in the market caused by liberal steel imports), coal stocks have gone down from 479,000 tonnes on July 1 to 343,000 tonnes on September 30.

The coal stocks are much below the safe level and the plants are forced to adjust oven-pushing rates frequently, thus running the risk of serious damage to coke ovens due to thermal variations.

Coking coal is not only in short supply, but is poor in quality, with the ash content as high as 18.5 to 21.8 per cent. It is blended with imported coking coal to reduce the ash content, but the foreign variety is unavailable in large quantities.

The steel plants are also starved of raw materials. The managing director of Bokaro (in Bihar) complained that stocks of all raw materials were running at an "alarmingly low level." Bokaro has captive mines at Kiriburu (iron ore fines) and Bhawanathpur and Kuteshwar (limestone). But it is not possible to move the fines and limestone due to railway bottlenecks.

The stocks of iron ore fines at Bokaro are 64,000 tonnes, against the normal requirement of 150,000 tonnes. When only three furnaces are in operation, the plant requires 8,000 tonnes of fines per day. Limestone stocks at Bokaro are even lower, a mere 3,900 tonnes (or just two days' consumption) as against the normal requirement of 40,000 tonnes.

Like railway transportation, power supply, which showed an improvement in recent months, also remains inadequate. Bhilai in Madhya Pradesh is the worst affected. The Madhya Pradesh electricity board imposed frequent and heavy restrictions during the year. In spite of the captive power generation being maximised by running all the three generators most of the time, the plant suffered a heavy loss of production. The output of captive iron ore and limestone mines also suffered due to frequent power trippings.

The Damodar Valley Corporation, on which Durgapur and IISCO at Burnpur (both in West Bengal) and Bokaro are dependent for their power, has performed better in the past few months, but supply still remains erratic.

Bokaro's total power requirement is 190 mva of which the DVC is expected to supply 100 to 120 mva, but last year it supplied only 40 to 60 mva. Bokaro's own power generation has a firm capacity of 67.5 mw (its installed capacity is 120 mw). The plant proposes to add three more sets of 60 mw each. But the developments in Poland, which is to supply the equipment, may delay shipments.

Power is a problem at the Salem plant (in Tamil Nadu), too. This is the newest plant to be set up in the country and it produces cold-rolled stainless steel sheets and strips. Its requirement of power is 13 mw. But its captive diesel set can generate only 6 mw.

All these factors as well as the quality of management, internal deficiencies and governmental policies affecting the public sector are responsible for the declining trend in SAIL production since 1976-77 (the best year for the industry). In that year, SAIL plants produced 5.432 million tonnes of saleable steel. The output declined steadily to 4.593 million tonnes in 1979-80. In 1980-81 it improved marginally to 4.746 million tonnes. If all goes well, it is expected to total 5.218 million tonnes this year.

Still, in view of the additions to installed capacity since 1976-77, this small increase in output can hardly be a matter of pride for SAIL. Indeed, capacity utilisation declined from 90 per cent in 1977-78 to 69 per cent in 1979-80.

As against the public sector steel plants, TISCO run by the Tatas at Jamshedpur (the oldest steel plant in the country), has notched up an almost 100 per cent capacity utilisation year after year.

This alone should call for some introspection on the part of SAIL and the steel ministry.

[6 Oct 81 pp 1, 5]

[Text] Short-Sighted Planning

A close and critical look at the public sector steel plants is apt to evoke two diametrically opposite emotions--pride and disappointment.

There is pride in the fact that "we can do it" as well as any other nation in the world. Salem is an example of the most sophisticated technology in the steel industry. Rourkela adopted the well-known LD process almost a quarter of a century ago. True, we have not followed Sweden's experiment in inred, elred and plasmared which are of potentially great relevance to the industry and there is scope for accepting the other latest trends in technology. But to say that our plants are outmoded would not be correct.

The spectacle of large volumes of red hot metal being poured mechanically from coke ovens into giant containers and then thrashed and beaten into ingots, billets or snake-like strips and thin sheets--all under the supervision of indigenous skills--is very impressive.

Instances of bungling and slovenliness are not wanting. But there is also much evidence of efficient and dynamic management and a degree of dedication on the part of engineers and ordinary workers.

By way of contrast, cold statistics bring a tinge of disappointment. A nation of 650 million people--the second largest in the world--is able to produce a mere six million tonnes of steel after three decades of independence and six five-year plans.

Even if we leave aside the United States, the Soviet Union and even Japan--each of which produces more than 100 million tonnes of steel a year--some of the smaller developing countries have done better than us. Unlike Japan which has to import most of the raw materials, India has coal and iron ore in abundance.

Insufficiency of financial resources has acted as a constraint, but it is not insurmountable. What has bedevilled the steel industry is the absence of imaginative long-term planning. The government's Rip Van Winkle-like attitude of fitful awakening after long periods of slumber has been responsible for the dismally low capacity in steel.

At the time of independence, our steel capacity was 1.5 million tonnes (one million tonnes for TISCO in Jamshedpur and 0.5 million tonnes for IISCO in Burnpur). Both were in the private sector. (IISCO was taken over by the government in 1972.) This capacity remained static until eight years after independence.

In the 1950s a decision was taken to set up three plants of one million tonnes capacity each in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur with West German, Soviet and British collaboration, respectively.

Rourkela was the first to go into production in 1959 followed a day later by Bhilai. Durgapur was commissioned later that year. The 1960s were characterised by expansion of capacities at these three plants. No new steel plant was commissioned until a decade later. This was in Bokaro, again with Soviet help, though it is claimed to be the first swadeshi plant because 80 per cent of its equipment is indigenous.

In 1970, it was decided to establish three more steel plants--in Salem, in Tamil Nadu, Visakhapatnam, in Andhra Pradesh, and Vijayanagar in Karnataka. However, 11 years were to elapse before the commissioning of the Salem unit and this too in a highly truncated form.

Final approval of the Visakhapatnam plant (with a capacity of 3.4 million tonnes a year) was made public only recently, while the fate of Vijayanagar still hangs in the balance. In the meantime, it has been decided to set up a shore-based plant at Paradip in Orissa.

As a result of the slow growth in capacity and the various infrastructural constraints mentioned in the previous article, steel production remained static at around 2.5 million tonnes until 1972-73. It picked up in the next three years but has not exceeded six million tonnes, of which five million tonnes is in the public sector.

Even though steel-making is heavily dependent on power, only half-hearted measures were taken to improve the capacity of public utility companies like the Damodar Valley Corporation and the state electricity boards. Nor did any one plan to make the steel plants self-sufficient in power by creating captive capacity. Captive power units have since been sanctioned for the plants, but only grudgingly and in a manner that they cannot meet the growing requirements.

Shortage of power, coal and railway wagons have all adversely affected steel production. Governmental policies in respect of steel pricing, product mix or imports have had an unhealthy effect on it, too.

The plight of the Salem steel plant provides a most graphic instance of bungling in planning. (It is a misnomer to call it a steel plant, for it makes no steel. It is only a rerolling mill.)

Salem depends wholly on imported hot-rolled bands which it rerolls into sheets and strips. Its requirement of 42,000 tonnes of imported bands is expected to cost Rs. 50 crores a year in foreign exchange. There is a proposal to produce the bands in Durgapur and hot-roll them in Bokaro for supply to Salem. But it may take years before it is put into practice. Till then bands will have to be imported to feed the Salem plant.

The decision to allow liberal imports of the kind of stainless steel sheets being made in Salem has also hit the plant. With a widespread recession in the world steel industry, the imported sheets are much cheaper (Rs. 5,600 per tonne) than the indigenous sheets made in Salem (Rs. 8,300 per tonne).

The production cost is high partly because Salem has to pay a customs duty of 325 per cent on the imported bands against 40 per cent charged on other raw materials.

Owing to faulty planning, Salem has got not an integrated steel plant but only a rerolling mill with only one sendzimir unit with a capacity of 32,000 tonnes when in full operation (30 per cent in the first year). The other facilities in Salem such as pickling and annealing can handle 70,000 tonnes. A second sendzimir unit can help double the production. The SAIL board is believed to have approved the installation of this second unit and the proposal is pending before the government.

Looking at the economics of Salem, it sounds ridiculous that the plant should start with a huge loss of Rs. 85 crores in the first year itself on an investment of Rs. 167 crores.

The Bokaro plant--the most modern of the steel plants in the country--is also expected to close the current financial year with a loss of Rs. 8 crores in spite of scoring new records in production in the first six months.

Thanks to pricing policy, the plant will make a loss on hot-rolled products though it will make a marginal profit on cold-rolled items. Since the demand for cold-rolled products has slumped, the plant has been forced to cut down its production by more than half--from 33,000 tonnes to 15,000 tonnes.

Durgapur is the steel industry's perpetually sick baby. So only Rourkela and Bhilai are expected to end the year with profits.

The steel sector demands considerable investments for expansion and modernisation. Hence steel executives are unanimous in their plea for a review of the formula governing prices. The piecemeal increases announced in recent months--the latest being in February--have not been found satisfactory.

The irony of the situation is that it is not the consumer but the middleman who benefits from the steel prices deliberately kept low. The steel-consuming industries get away with considerable profit because they are able to buy steel at low rates.

There is similarly need for a more realistic price for materials produced by the steel plants exclusively for government departments like the railways. Durgapur makes railway track materials like wheels and axles, fish-plates and sleepers, while Bhilai manufactures rails.

But neither gets a fair price. The managing director in Bhilai said: "We do not get even the primary cost of steel-making." This situation has gone on for almost two decades, with the government paying no heed to repeated pleas from the steel plants to revise the prices.

(To be concluded)

CSO: 4220/7178

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS TROUBLES OF SALEM STEEL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Oct 81 pp 1, 7

[First of a series on Indian Steel Authority plants]

[Text] Our special correspondent recently visited the plants of the Steel Authority of India at Bokaro, Bhilai, Rourkela and Salem. He reports on the status of the expansion plans being executed in the face of delayed supplies, of production plans gone awry for want of electricity and coal and of SAIL's gearing up its corporate sinews for the 10 million tonne target.

Salem--The Steel Authority of India's infant prodigy, the Salem Steel Plant is really not a steel plant at all. It is a re-rolling mill processing extremely expensive imported special steel, rolls, largely for use in the utensil making industry.

And by current indications, unless the government comes to its immediate rescue by making the imported hot rolled coils cheaper by reducing the duty, it threatens to become a long-term losing proposition.

The plant commissioned on 13 September this year, uses hot rolled coils imported at a customs duty of 325 per cent. With a current installed rolling capacity of 32,000 tonnes, the plant is entirely dependent on imports till such time that the government agrees to make alternate arrangements through the expansion projects at the other integrated steel plants of SAIL.

Price Pincer

In fact, according to executive director A. A. Raju, Salem has been caught in a price pincer, further aggravated by the ease with which ultimate consumers manage to import cold rolled special steels at a much cheaper price.

The market price of cold rolled stainless steel sheets for instance is Rs 56,000 a tonne. After paying import duties Salem can produce the same sheets at only at Rs 83,000 a tonne or nearly 50 per cent higher than the market price.

The plant began with an in-built loss of Rs 86 crores annually. Recently the Salem plant sold one of its first consignments of finished steel at a loss to the

Tamilnadu Government's Southern Structurals Limited, which itself was a "sick" private sector firm before the State Government took it over.

Faced with this problem, the plant is pressing on the government to give it financial relief first by reducing the import duty from the present crippling level to something more reasonable, and secondly by importing steel slabs instead of hot rolled coils. The slabs with a 40 per cent duty only said Mr Raju, could be rolled at its sister plant at Bokaro within SAIL which will do the preliminary processing. Ultimately, Durgapur, it is hoped, will supply the special steels.

According to Mr Raju Salem's appeal is getting a favourable response from the highest quarters and a decision is likely soon. At present, the products are governed by the pricing schedule of the Joint Plant Committee which has so far not taken the production cost of Rs 83,000 per tonne into account as against the market price of Rs 56,000. SAIL has also pleaded for an outright ban, or at least drastic restrictions on the import of cold rolled stainless steel.

Pricing may be the more urgent need, but the problems of Salem are a decade old at least. Through the decade, what was conceived to be another modern integrated steel plant, making its own iron from nearby ores, converting it into steel ingots slabs and coils and then milling them to the fine quality required for the transport industry, utensils and chemical plants, has found itself truncated into a more rolling mill.

There seems no hopes in the next two decades of it ever becoming the integrated plant it was supposed to be.

Mr Mohan Kumaramangalam, the then Union Minister for Steel and Mines, who came from a nearby village, had planned for a plant that could utilise the iron ores in the picturesque foothills of the Kanjamalai range on Tamilnadu-Karnataka border with the Cauvery roaring by. In fact, there are two huge hills made up of about 32 per cent iron in the sprawling 15.45 sq miles complex of the plant and its township which is speedily coming up on a very modern pattern.

The iron in the mountains was not economical to extract because far more enriched and cheaper ores were available in the country in abundant supply.

After a number of studies in the 60s, the site was chosen for one of the three new plants to be initiated in the fifth Plan together with Visakhapatnam and Vijayanagar in Karnataka. The work at the plant site was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 17 September 1979. Construction was inaugurated by Mr Kumaramangalam two years later. According to the original schedule, the first phase--of setting up a cold rolling mill of 35,000 tonnes capacity--was expected to be completed in the fifth Plan itself, but there was no cash to carry on the plans.

Salem was almost forgotten for the next five years. There was no activity at all till March 13, 1977 on the eve of the general elections when the government gave its final clearance to SAIL to go ahead with the first phase and complete it within 34 months. The capacity was to be 32,000 tonnes using imported special steel in the hot rolled coils form.

A computer was pressed into service to ensure the completion of various projects on time. The cold rolling of special steels is a high technology field, for which the technical knowhow was received from the French concern Peugeot Loire. Other equipment came from France, GDR, West Germany, Austria and Japan.

The heart of the Rs 167 crore first phase is a massive Sendzimir Mill which rolls the thick coils into various grades of very finely polished thin rolls or sheets in all specified gauges.

But before a steel coil can be rolled, it has to be cleaned (the process called pickling) and softened (annealing). The modern annealing and pickling units are said to be the best available in the world. Apart from the Sendzimir mill, which has a capacity of 32,000 tonnes a year, the annealing, pickling, shearing and slitting units are capable of handling 70,000 tonnes, sufficient for a further expansion. The SAIL board has already sanctioned a second Sendzimir mill and the proposal is now awaiting government sanction.

The plant has also the country's latest bulk handling structure for liquid petroleum gas used in the annealing furnaces. Three huge steel spheres of 500 tonnes capacity each are ready for use. The installation can unload 60 equivalent to about 30,000 cylinders of the type used in domestic cooking ranges. According to Mr Raju, the plant's profitability will increase once its production reaches 10,000 tonnes with the installation of the second Sendzimir mill.

As the facilities for smelting and continuous casting were being installed in the Durgapur modernisation scheme, the Salem mills could roll the entire product of the Durgapur unit, Mr Raju said.

Meanwhile, Salem is hopeful of catalysing a range of small-scale industries in the State to make use of its product. It has launched a massive campaign to educate the entrepreneurs of the region into the range of its special steels, and promises technical guidance to those who want to make use of it.

(To be continued)

ENR 4/20/1179

PLANS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN STEEL TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Sep 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, September 25.

THE Union government's recent approval for setting up an integrated steel mill at Paradip with a capacity of three million tonnes per annum will enable the country to attain self-sufficiency in steel during the seventh plan period.

From a net exporter of steel during 1976-77 and 1977-78, India had become a net importer despite the slowing down in the rate of industrial growth. According to official sources here, the country will have to depend on imports of steel for meeting the domestic demand during the sixth plan period. This is in spite of vast improvement in the rate of capacity utilisation of the steel industry.

It is stated that there will be need for marginal import of steel even during the concluding year (1984-85) of the sixth plan, as there will be imbalances between various categories of steel. While there may be a surplus of flat products by 1984-85, the planners anticipate shortage of shaped products.

With the industrial growth rate showing positive signs of improvement, the demand for steel is also expected to go up. During the sixth plan period, the demand for steel is slated to grow at the rate of 8.8 per cent.

An all-out attempt is, therefore, being made to maximise steel production both from the integrated plants as well as the mini-steel mills. The steel ministry is keeping a close watch over the progress of the various expansion schemes. The idea is that there should be no slippages in the construction schedule.

Sources here point out that steps have also been initiated to start work at the Visakhapatnam steel plant, which had approved earlier by the

Union cabinet. The first phase of the Vizag steel plant, which will have a capacity of 1.15 million tonnes, is expected to be completed during the final year of the sixth plan and it will go on stream in 1985-86. The second phase of the shore-based project with a total capacity of 2.25 million tonnes is expected to be completed in 1987-88 and it will start production during 1987-88.

The demand for steel is projected to go up to 12.9 million tonnes by 1984-85 and 18.4 million tonnes by the turn of this decade, starting from a consumption level of eight million tonnes in 1979-80.

The production of steel, including the output of mini-steel plants, has been planned to be increased from 7.4 million tonnes in 1979-80 to 11.5 million tonnes in 1984-85, and 17.4 million tonnes in 1989-90, provided the infrastructural constraints are adequately eradicated.

The short-term and long-term strategy on the iron and steel sector encompasses the removal of infrastructural constraints, including the import of coking coal, provision of captive power plants at Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela, and the speedy implementation of modernisation and expansion schemes.

The Bhilai steel plant's capacity is being expanded by four million tonnes, while the Bokaro expansion envisages an increase in the capacity to the tune of 8.75 million tonnes.

Bhubaneswar (PTI): Amidst thunderous applause, the chief minister of Orissa, Mr. J. B. Patnaik, announced in the state assembly on Friday the Centre's decision to locate the country's second shore-based steel plant at Paradip.

Describing it as "historic" for Orissa, the chief minister said the plant, with an initial annual capacity of 1.5 million tonnes, would cost an estimated Rs. 3,000 crores. The capacity would go up to three million tonnes, he added.

BRIEFS

WEST BENGAL ELECTIONS--Calcutta, Sept. 25--The ruling Left Front committee in West Bengal favours the holding of elections to the State Assembly in March and has decided to recommend to the State Government that it take steps to advance the poll by three months from its due date in June next year. Mr. Promode Dasgupta, Chairman of the nine-party committee, told newsmen shortly after a meeting yesterday that June was not suitable for election campaign as it was too hot then and wet too. "If our recommendation is accepted the State Government, then, will have to request the Governor for dissolution of the State Assembly," he said. The CPI (M)-led Left Front Government will complete its full five-year term in June.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Sep 81 p 7]

HALDIA REFINERY EXPANSION--The Haldia Refinery has taken up a project to expand the capacity of the propane deasphalting unit of the lube oil block to produce 15,000 tons of cylinder oil, in addition to 45,000 tons of "bright stock" annually, Mr N. L. Majumdar, general manager of the refinery, told reporters at Haldia on Friday. The cylinder oil to be produced at Haldia will be a special type of lubricant, which is at present imported mostly for the use of the railways. Mr Majumdar said the project was estimated to cost Rs 3 crores and expected to be completed by March 1983. Despite a shortfall in the availability of crude, the refinery gave priority to the production of high speed diesel, cooking gas and bitumen. As a result of the crude crisis the refinery, which produced mainly lube, had to handle about 12 types of crude. Its processing rate had gone up to 2.492 million tons in 1979-80 from 2.213 million tons the previous year. Mr Majumdar said foreign collaboration might be required for various new processing schemes now being examined. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 27 Sep 81 p 12]

UTTAR PRADESH GOLD--Lucknow--Large deposits of commercially viable gold ore have been found in the hilly areas of Pauri Garhwal and Nainital districts of Uttar Pradesh, an official release said today. In the Upper Shivalik hill reaches in the Kalachur region of Pauri Garhwal, a 60 km long and two to five km wide seam of gold deposit has been found. This seam of "placer" gold which in the west begins near Kalagarh between the Rai Ganga river, ends in the east near the Kosi river in Ramnagar. The belt stretches through the Corbett National Park, Pauri Garhwal and Nainital. In an earlier survey in May and June last, a nine km long and two to four kms wide seam of gold had been found in the Upper Shivalik reaches between Khara and Cheela in Pauri Garhwal district. Tests have revealed the ore has a recovery of 0.4 per ton of ore. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Sep 81 p 4]

FORMER AASU LEADER--Gauhati, Sept. 26 (UNI)--Former All Assam Students Union general secretary Prasanna Lal Choudhury who had been suffering from cancer for the last three years died in the Medical College Hospital here today. He was 35. AASU president Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and its general secretary Bhriku Kumar Phukan along with other student and All Assam Gana Sangram leaders paid their last tribute to the departed leader by placing wreaths on the body. The body was later cremated at Navaraha cremation ground in the presence of a large number of people. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Sep 81 p 4]

CPI WIN--Vijayawada, September 28 (UNI)--The CPI, a constituent of the ruling united front, won a seat in the municipal corporation from the eighth division, trouncing the Congress (I) in the election field yesterday, the result of which was announced today. Election had been earlier countermanded because of the death of a candidate. The CPI candidate, Mr. M. Nasaraiah, polled 3,281 while his nearest Congress (I) rival secured 699. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Sep 81 p 1]

ORDER FROM USSR--A repeat order for 35 sets of hot water generating systems consisting of package boiler, water treatment plant, expansion tank, etc. was signed in Bombay, by IAEC Bombay and Machinimport, USSR recently, says a press release of the Company. The order follows a visit of Soviet technical and commercial teams to IAEC's factory at Bhandup, Bombay, where the "hot test" of a complete hot water generating system was conducted in the presence of Soviet experts on 24 and 25 August, 1981. The efficiency achieved by the IAEC hot water generating system was 92 per cent which is more than the guaranteed efficiency of 88 per cent. This is an extremely creditable achievement and gives further proof of the capabilities of Indian engineering and expertise. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Sep 81 p 5]

AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL--Mr Roop Krishna Anand, presently Indian ambassador to Argentina, has been appointed ambassador to Senegal in succession to Mr Kanwar Gajendra Singh, reports PTI. Mr Anand is expected to take up his assignment shortly, says an official release. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Sep 81 p 5]

AID FROM HUNGARY--Hungary would help India in managing its water resources and irrigation projects, Union Minister of State for Irrigation Z. R. Ansari said in the Capital on Monday. Mr Ansari had recently discussed the issue with the Hungarian Irrigation Minister. Inaugurating an exhibition on water management at Hungarian Cultural Centre Mr Ansari said that he had discussed in detail about the scope of cooperation and collaboration in such fields. Hungary's Charge d'Affaires S. Varge said that water management in his country was the task of the National Water Management Authority. It managed supply and use of water to an acceptable level. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Sep 81 p 10]

GARHWAL REPOLL DATE--New Delhi, Sept. 29--The Election Commission today formally notified that the repoll in Garhwal Parliamentary Constituency would be held on November 22, reports PTI. The candidates will be the same as in the June 14 by-election, which was countermanded by the Election Commission on June 20 because of irregularities, including induction of policemen from outside Uttar Pradesh without the knowledge of the commission. There will be no fresh poll as far as

postal ballots are concerned. Those received the last time would be counted along with the ballots of the repoll. The contest had assumed national significance in view of the personalities involved. Mr H. N. Banuguna, who had won the seat in the last general election on a Congress ticket and resigned after leaving the party, was seeking to assert his personal influence in the constituency. The Congress (I) was equally determined to defeat him and had put up Mr Chandra Mohan Singh Negi, a U.P. Minister. There are four other candidates. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Sep 81 p 1]

VIDYASAGAR VICE CHANCELLOR--Professor Bhupesh Chandra Mukherjee has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Vidyasagar University, according to Mr Sambhu Ghosh, Minister for Higher Education. Professor Mukherjee took charge in Calcutta on Tuesday. The Minister said that the new Vice-Chancellor had been requested to take charge during the day as it was the birth anniversary of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar. Professor Mukherjee was a former principal of Moulana Azad College and president of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Sep 81 p 4]

MAHARASHTRA CABINET DECISIONS--The Maharashtra cabinet today fixed the support price of jowar and paddy at Rs. 122 per quintal for this year. The chief minister, Mr. A. R. Antulay, who announced the decision to newsmen at a hurriedly convened press conference after the weekly cabinet meeting, said the procurement would commence from October 2 and the Maharashtra state co-operative marketing federation would be the government's agent for making the purchase. The state cabinet also decided to nationalise three textile mills in the state. They are the textile mills at Badnera, Phulgaon (both in Vidarbha) and the Western India Mills in Bombay. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Oct 81 pp 1, 5]

CPI MEMBERSHIP GROWTH--New Delhi, Sept. 29--The Communist Party of India has registered a modest growth in its All-India membership since the party held its 10th congress at Bhatinda in April 1978. According to an official CPI document, it approved all India membership stands at 465,483 in 1981. It was 459,513 at the time of the last congress in 1978. The CPI has very strong bases in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These State units contained 3,78,183 members in 1981. The CPI's Bihar unit is the strongest and has a strength of 127,199. Its membership in 1978 was 107,673. The tally of the CPI's membership in Andhra Pradesh is 82,882, in Kerala 54,855, in Tamil Nadu 41,726, in Uttar Pradesh 38,332, in West Bengal 33,179, in Punjab 19,892, in Orissa 14,172 and in Maharashtra 13,229. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Oct 81 p 11]

UNDP GRANTS REPORTED--New Delhi, Sept. 30--While world organizations such as the IMF have been constrained to assist India, the United Nations Development Programme has proved to be more liberal with its funds. It has raised its assistance to the University Grants Commission's nine selected university science departments from \$1 million to \$2.8 million, in the second phase of its programme covering October 1979 to December 1982. The UNDP's financial assistance is mainly for improving the research and development capacities of these departments in Indian universities. During the first phase of the programme, covering 1977 and 1978, the UNDP gave an assistance of about \$1 million and on evaluation of the results, during the second phase covering October 1979 to December 1982, the UNDP's

assistance has been stepped up to \$2.8 million. The UNDP support covers equipment services of foreign consultants and training facilities abroad besides other material inputs. The purpose of the special assistance programme is to enable departments concerned to modernize and consolidate their training and research programmes on an inter-disciplinary basis and to engage themselves in problem-oriented and time-bound research programmes with distinct R and D value. The special assistance programme was started by the commission about 10 years ago. The commission, with the help of its expert committees, has so far identified 32 such departments. The commission has given them substantial support to add to their facilities, sophisticated equipment and academic and research staff. The UGC's assistance for the programme relating to the 32 science departments is about Rs 15 lakhs for each department over a 5-year period. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Oct 81 p 13]

NEW ONGC CHIEF--Dehra Dun, Sept. 30--Col. S. P. Washi, former Chairman of the Cement Corporation of India and at present holding charge as officer on special duty, ONGC, will take over as the ONGC Chairman tomorrow. He succeeds Mr. P. T. Venugopal, who is going on a month's leave preparatory to retirement.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Oct 81 p 16]

FOREIGN VOTERS REPORTED--Calcutta, October 1--The PCC (I) general secretary, Dr. Gopal Das Nag, yesterday referred to "alarming" reports about Bangladesh nations having been included as voters in many areas during the recent revision of electoral rolls. He said that a specific example of nearly 400 such entries in the rolls for a constituency near Santipur in Nadia district had come to his notice. The party was trying to obtain more information in regard to all the constituencies bordering Bangladesh and "will then decide what to do about it." [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Oct 81 p 15]

PLA ARRESTS REPORTED--Imphal, Oct. 1--A senior leader of the outlawed People's Liberation Army, Chongtham Beda Singh, and another PLA member were shot dead by some unknown persons at Naoremthong Bamon Yaina Leirak near here today, according to the police, reports UNI. Mr Beda Singh, who was responsible for the PLA propaganda balloons and for remodelling the mine-bombs used as traps, was walking down a main road with another PLA activist when he was shot dead. The other PLA man, who was critically wounded, died in hospital. His identity could not be established immediately. PTI adds: Three important members of the outlawed Peoples' Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak surrendered before the Manipur Chief Minister on Tuesday, and handed over three country-made pistols, according to an official release today. They were N. Mohon Singh, N. Gopal Singh and Iraiyma Singh, the release added. Mr K. H. Chaoba, leader of the People's Democratic Front in Manipur today demanded the resignation of the Congress (I) Ministry in the State for its "failure to contain the deteriorating law and order situation." [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Oct 81 p 1]

WEST BENGAL CONGRESS-S--The West Bengal Congress (S) thinks that the CPI(M) is straying from the path of unity of Left and democratic forces and is indulging in parochialism under the leadership of Mr Promode Dasgupta. The State Congress (S) executive in its resolution has called upon other constituents of the Left Front to rise against the big brotherly attitude of the CPI(M). The CPI(M), it says, has been consistently parochial because it has all along opposed the

progressive steps taken by the Congress. The resolution has also criticized the Left Front for deterioration of law and order in the districts. Because of the failure of the Left movement and acute unemployment, a deep frustration had set in among the youth. The Central Government had also completely failed to check the prices of essential commodities. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Oct 81 p 3]

WARSHIPS' COLOMBO PORT CALL--Colombo, Oct. 1--Two Indian warships, INS Dunagiri and INS Amba, now on a goodwill visit to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, sailed into Colombo on Monday morning. INS Dunagiri--a leander-class frigate and INS Amba--a submarine depot ship--are on their first visit to the island. Captain I. J. S. Khuranna, Commanding Officer, INS Dunagiri, and Captain S. Bhandoola, Commanding Officer, INS Amba, called on the Sri Lanka Navy Chief, Rear Admiral R. V. H. Periera, who paid a return visit. A reception was hosted by the Commanding Officers, which was attended among others by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Thomas Abraham, senior defence officials of Sri Lanka and consular representatives. A friendly basketball match was played by the team of the countries. A group of spastic school children were taken on board on Tuesday and shown round. INS Amba, a Russian-built depot ship, has a group of cadets from the Naval Academy, Cochin, who are on their maiden voyage. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Oct 81 p 5]

MARATHI DAILY CLOSES--Pune, 1 (UNI)--The "vishal sahyadri" a local Marathi Daily of 21 years' repute, today closed down due to "financial constraints." The management has served notices on its one hundred-odd journalist and non-journalist employees informing them of the closure and terminating their services with effect from today. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Oct 81 p 5]

WARSHIPS AT MOMBASA--Mombasa, Oct. 2--Two Indian warships--INS Brahmaputra and INS Beas--berthed at Mombasa on Wednesday on a four-day goodwill mission to Kenya. The arrival of the ships coincided with the visit of India's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral R. L. Pereira, to Kenya. The Indian High Commissioner in Nairobi, Mr V. K. Crover, called on the commanding officers--Captain A. K. S. Chitre and Commander S. Pillai. The commanding officers of the warships called on the Kenyan Naval Chief, Brigadier Mbilu. Admiral Pereira was also present and held discussions with Brigadier Mbilu. The two naval chiefs presented crests of their respective Navy to each other. Both the commanding officers later called on the provincial commissioner of Mombasa and Rajab Sumba, the Mayor of Mombasa. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Oct 81 p 16]

STUDENTS FEDERATION DENIAL--The All-India Students Federation on Friday said that Ajinder Singh, leader of the five Sikhs who hijacked an Indian Airlines plane to Lahore, had no connections with the AISF. In a statement, the AISF said that "he was never a member" of the organisation. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Oct 81 p 7]

IMPHAL ARRESTS REPORTED--Imphal, October 3 (PTI)--The police and the Manipur Rifles have launched a drive against underground elements in various parts of Imphal for the last four days. In all, 13 "important extremists" including the former regional chairman of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland, Mr. Rochu Ro, and a PREPAK leader, Mr. Suren Macha, have been arrested during surprise raids.

The drive was conducted in the wake of reports that an attempt was being made by the underground organisations of Manipur, Nagaland and Assam to come under one banner. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Oct 81 p 5]

POWER STATION PLANS--New Delhi, Oct. 3--The State-owned National Thermal Power Corporation will set up seven big power stations, including one in the capital, with a total capacity of 15,000 MW by 1995. The project sites are Talcher (Orissa), Kahalgaon (Bihar), Waidhan and Pench (Madhya Pradesh), Bhadrachalam (Andhra Pradesh), and Uttar Pradesh, the NTPC Chairman and Managing Director, Mr A. K. Sah told reporters here today. When commissioned, these would account for more than 30 per cent of the thermal power capacity additions till 1990, he said. The first stage of 1260 MW-Waidhan project--nearing completion--has received Soviet assistance. Mr Sah said feasibility reports on four projects had already been submitted to the Government for investment approval. Mr Sah said that the World Bank which has already contributed \$1,500 million for the thermal power and projects, was expected to give \$350 million for expansion work at the 1,500 MW-Ramagundam project. The negotiations were expected to take place shortly, he said. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Oct 81 p 9]

KHALISTAN COUNCIL MEMBERS--Amritsar, Oct. 3--Two active members of the National Council of Khalistan, Master Hazara Singh and Mr Ujagar Singh Chackmishri, were arrested when they surrendered near the Guru Ram Das Serai here this evening, reports PTI. Both of them were mentioned by the Chief Minister, Mr Darbara Singh, as proclaimed offenders hiding in the Golden Temple premises to evade arrest. They were immediately taken away in a police jeep. A large number of Sikhs gathered inside Guru Ram Das Serai and shouted pro-Khalistan slogans when the two surrendered. A large police force was kept on guard near the serai. No untoward incident occurred. Both Mr Ujagar Singh and Master Hazara Singh became prominent when they crossed the international border with Pakistan on April 8 in protest against the Indian Government's decision to slash the number of pilgrims to Sikh Gurdwaras in Pakistan. They were imprisoned for several months during the Punjabi Suba agitation of Akali Dal in 1960. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Oct 81 p 1]

SCIENCE ACADEMY PRESIDENT--The annual general meeting of the Indian National Science Academy has reelected Prof M. G. K. Menon Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, as President of the Academy for 1982, reports UNI. The meeting also elected Prof. S. C. Bhattacharya (Calcutta) and Dr A. S. Mitra and Prof. P. N. Tandon (both of Delhi) as Secretaries. The annual meeting also conferred the Meghnad Saha Medal on Planning Commission member M. S. Swaminathan. Awards were also presented to Dr A. N. Radhakrishnan (University of Hyderabad) for the Bires Chandra Guha lecture for 1981 and Prof. D. Lal of Ahmedabad for Dr Drishnan Memorial lecture for 1981. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Oct 81 p 5]

TRADE FAIR PLANS--Moscow, Oct 3 (UNI)--The Soviet Union will be one of the major participants of the international trade fair to be held in Delhi in November-December this year, reports UNI. The Soviet exposition will include more than 4,000 items reflecting the development of Soviet economy and science, domestic and foreign policies of the Soviet State, the working and recreation of the Soviet people. The major Soviet foreign trade organisations represented at the

fair will demonstrate the export capabilities of the Soviet Union, Mr Nikolai Petrovski, head of the Soviet exposition at the coming fair told APN in an interview. The experience of the past years shows that the Delhi fair which is very representative in nature, provides excellent opportunities for business contacts and mutually advantageous contracts and agreements, he said. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Oct 81 p 5]

AID TO BHUTAN--Gangtok, Oct 3 (PTI)--India will assist Bhutan in setting up its own air service, according to Union Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister A. P. Sharma. The Centre was paying particular attention to providing better air service in the North-Eastern region, Mr Sharma, now on a two-day visit to Sikkim, said at a press conference here yesterday. As a first step in this direction, the present tri-weekly Delhi-Bagdora service was extended to four days a week. It was encouraging that traffic in the Delhi-Gauhati flight was picking up, the Minister said. The fare for the proposed helicopter service between Bagdora and Gangtok will not be more than the taxi fare, Mr Sharma added. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Oct 81 p 5]

VIP SECURITY CHECKS--Raipur, Oct. 4--All VIPs except Ambassadors, Chief Ministers and Union Cabinet Ministers would be required to pass through the security check in air travel. The Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar said here on Saturday that the security rules on these lines existed at the international level also, but they were not being strictly followed till now. He said the Union Ministers of State, State Ministers, MPs, MLAs and other VIPs would now be subjected to security check. The security rules would now be strictly implemented.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Oct 81 p 9]

AASU EXPELS LEADER--Gauhati, October 5 (PTI)--A prominent executive committee member of the All-Assam Students' Union, Mr. Lachit Kaita, has been expelled from the AASU for alleged corruption in the organisation. Mr. Bhriku Phookan, general secretary of the union, said here today that the decision for expulsion was taken at the recent general meeting of AASU held at Bongaigaon. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Oct 81 p 1]

BUMPER SUGAR CROP--Bangalore, October 5--Sugar production in the coming season is expected to be a record 6.5 million tonnes, according to Mr. Ranjit Puri, president of the 45th annual convention of sugar technologists of India. Attributing the expected bumper crop to the "practical and farm-oriented policies" of the government, Mr. Puri said he was happy that consumers' hardships on account of sugar would end. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Oct 81 p 5]

EAST EUROPE TRADE--New Delhi, October 5--Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia have shown interest in importing chemicals from India, according to a six-member delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which has returned after a visit to these countries. In Bulgaria, the delegation was informed that India could send 50 tonnes of aspirin immediately. The three countries wanted some dyestuffs and dye intermediates, ayurvedic medicines and herbs. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Oct 81 p 5]

HIGH-YIELDING FODDER--New Delhi, Oct. 5--New high-yielding varieties of sorghum for fodder have been developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute promising to increase the yield by 70 per cent. Mr H. K. Jain, director of the institute, has told reporters here that the new varieties will provide nutrition to cattle which will lead to higher milk production. Sorghum is the most important fodder crop. The varieties are--pusa chari-10, pusa chari-6, pusa chari-9, pusa chari-11 (all single cut varieties) and pusa chari-21, pusa chari-23, pusa chari-29 and pusa chari-40 (all two-cut varieties). [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Oct 81 p 3]

WARSHIPS IN TANZANIA--Dar-es-Salaam, Oct. 5--The command ship, INS Brahmaputra, fired a 21-gun salute as it sailed in to Dar-es-Salaam harbour along with INS Beas early this morning. The salute was reciprocated by Tanzanian shore batteries. The two warships are on a five-week goodwill mission to east African ports. The ships were received by the acting Indian High Commissioner, Mr U. N. Abhyankar, and Brigadier R. L. Makunda, Chief of the Tanzanian Naval Staff at the jetty. A large crowd lined the shores as the ships steamed into the harbour. The commanding officers of the two ships, Captain A. K. S. Chitre of INS Brahmaputra and Commander S. Pillai of INS Beas called on the Tanzanian Minister for Defence and National Service, Lieutenant-General Abdallah Twalipo, and the acting Chief of the Defence Forces of Tanzania, Lieutenant-General Musuguri. The Defence Minister expressed his country's gratitude at the various assistance, technical and other, offered by India to Tanzania. The Defence Forces Chief was grateful to India for training its armed forces. The captain of the command ship presented a crest to the Chief of the Defence Forces. The commanding officers of the two ships later called on the acting Indian High Commissioner. The ships arrived in Tanzania from Mombasa. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Oct 81 p 16]

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